

I live on Medway Rd, Medway just 1 km from the mine. I have lived in the Southern Highlands for 30 years and in Medway for 15 years. **I oppose the Hume Coal Project.**

There are many aspects of the EIS that are lacking detailed information about the risks and adverse effects on the community if this mine project was to go ahead. Living in the Village which is closest to the mine, I was very concerned that so little reference was given to Medway in the EIS.

Water is a huge concern to all and a lot of the community relies on bores not just for agricultural purposes but also for drinking water. Medway Village has no town water so we rely on rainwater filling our tanks. In times of little rain we have to fill our tanks using the water from our bore and as Hume has acknowledged in the EIS that over 90 bores will be affected, it is a huge concern that we will be unable to rely on our bore to provide the basic necessity of water for our home.

It is greatly worrying that if the mine were to be built our tank water will be affected by coal dust, construction dust, dust from blasting as it settles on our roofs and is then washed into our tanks ...this is just not acceptable for drinking water and household use.

Dust is another ever present element for a mine. The EIS seems to think that the wind only ever blows from the west or south-west, not at all true and it seems that Medway was again ignored in the data collecting. We get swirling winds, southerlies, westerlies, northerlies and easterlies....as do most places...but Hume seems to only be guided by readings from "prevailing winds".

We are concerned that Hume will have not just 1 stockpile as we were led to believe early on, but 3 stockpiles one of which will include toxic mine rejects. These stockpiles will be located very close to Medway Rd and according to Hume Coal (appendix K Air quality Impacts page 57) *"A key source of emissions from the projectis from the product coal stockpiles. At the time of reporting, Hume Coal are investigating several control methods for effective dust mitigation from the product stockpiles..."* To me Hume Coal should not be submitting an EIS while they are still investigating measures to mitigate such important aspects of the project. Air pollution is a huge concern to the community.

Hume states that the peak air pollution emissions will be from the construction phase which appears to be ongoing for 2 years. So our community is expected to accept our health is put at risk while Hume destroys our living standards as we know them....this is not acceptable.

After the construction phase we then are expected to accept continued dust and poor air quality from transfer of coal and coal rejects; stackers at the stockpiles; coal screening stations; coal preparation; loading coal onto rail wagons; transferring coal from different storage sites; bulldozers in storage areas; loaders handling coal rejects; wind erosion of stockpiles; diesel fumes; ventilation shaft emissions.....to me this is a toxic cocktail that should not be permitted.

The above paragraph also lends itself to the continued noise that Medway and the surrounding areas will be expected to accept if this mine were to be built.

Hume admits that noise in the construction phase will exceed Noise Management Levels. They also state that actual noise levels will be verified during the construction phase, I ask how can an EIS be submitted with lack of actual true data.

During construction phase we will be bombarded with noise and from Table C.1. Early Works the noise levels will be in excess of 115 db and up to 125db. Table C.2 Portals and portals access show similar decibel readings. As our Village has no through traffic and no noise other than normal household sounds which is normally accepted as anything up to 70db, the noise pollution we are going to be subjected to from Hume Coal is unacceptable and harmful.

The EIS states that we will have operational noise; low frequency noise which is shown to affect some people very severely and can lead to sleep deprivation, depression; cumulative noise; sleep disturbances; construction noise and vibration; blast activity; road traffic noise; . I note that Hume states noise levels during out of hours activities will also probably exceed NML but they will monitor it during night periods....yet again they are assuming unproven data levels...they admit noise levels will probably be 10db above accepted levels yet what if noise levels are 25 db above acceptable levels? We do not accept being asked to live with unknown and unacceptable noise levels.

Another aspect of the project that is given little space in the EIS is the social aspect. I have watched as many community members have been treated appallingly by Hume Coal in Hume's attempt to get onto properties for exploratory drilling. The upset and anger when neighbours were taken to court for protecting their properties was palpable. Families had worked for many years improving their properties and were expected to just sit and watch as their properties going to be destroyed by what I would term "bullying tactics" from a vast International Company. The stress placed on these families in particular and also to the community was outrageous. The fear, anxiety and the uncertainty is something we live with constantly and is something that Hume has refused to acknowledge.

There is one other aspect that Hume Coal have ignored in regard to Medway specifically. We were told that as we were very close to the mine that Hume would speak with the Village we are still waiting for that to happen. Ignoring neighbouring families in this fashion is unacceptable from a company that has had many years in which to put the EIS together.

There are many other aspects of the EIS that do not pass muster with the community. Our area is based on agriculture, tourism, wineries, our historic Villages, (especially the heritage village of Berrima) our rural beauty .

We should not be subjected to a mine where the EIS is based on assumptions and where the major impacts to the community are either minimised or ignored. On all these grounds I asked that the Hume Coal Project be rejected.

Annie Hird Medway Village resident

