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To Whom it may concern,

My name is Isabella Roche. I was born in Bowral District Hospital in 1990 and have primarily resided in this beautiful district since. I enjoy horse riding, bike riding, running and bush walking, interests which all require the outdoors and have developed due to the true beauty of this district. In addition to my outdoor hobbies, I also take a keen interest in the environment. I collect rubbish when I walk, I do not use plastic bags and now use a reusable coffee cup, all examples of my commitment to the environment. Unfortunately, I belong to a generation of future Australians who will be left to pick up the pieces of current consumerism and poor governmental decisions on energy. My primary concern, currently, is the prospect of a coal mine run by South Korean company Hume Coal. Why is this a concern? Unfortunately, the way in which the coal mine would affect me personally and the local environment would require pages of writing so I have chosen a few points that matter most to me.

Firstly, water bores will be seriously compromised. This alone is a fantastic reason for the coal mine not to go ahead. It baffles me, in this day and age, that water is not our primary concern. Rather, the prospect of allowing a Korean based company into our landscape in the name of non-renewable energy seems quite backwards to me. Without water, there is no life and without life, coal won't mean a thing. The fact that mining can result in the pollution of local rivers and streams absolutely horrifies me and does not make any sense. For these reasons alone, I hope that the Coal Mining project does not go ahead.

Finally, one of my main concerns lies with the social impacts that can already be seen amongst the residents of the Wingecarribee Shire. This is an issue that is particularly close to my heart. My grandparents, Dr John Roche (OAM) and Kathleen Roche have lived in the Southern Highlands for over 50 years. They have been living at their current residence 'Araluen' on Golden Vale Rd, Sutton Forest since 1988. They worked very hard all of their lives as a General Practitioner and Pharmacist in the district and made and continue to make large contributions to many community organisations and causes. My Grandparents should be enjoying retirement after so many years of hard work and community contribution. Instead at the ages of 89 and 81, they are spending many of their days worrying about the predicament our beautiful Southern Highlands is facing. The prospect of losing their water is almost too much to bear sometimes. *Araluen* is renowned far and wide for its beautiful horse riding facilities. Many of my childhood memories are based around riding horses both in competition and for leisure. This is a common theme for many horse families from around the district. In addition to this, Nan and Pa are also avid tree lovers. Many of the beautiful trees, some of which I helped to plant many years ago, are likely to be effected by the compromised bores and without them, *Araluen* would never be the same. In addition to this, the value of their property has plummeted due to the prospect of the mine. This concerns the family as a whole, as collectively we have put so many hours and a whole lot of love into the property.

Eventually, I would love to have a family and raise them in the beautiful Southern Highlands. A pristine, coal mine free Southern Highlands. I hope that the local residents will continue to 'shut the gate' on Hume Coal and the prospect of a Coal Mine in the beautiful district we live in. I only hope that common sense will prevail and that the local council and government will follow suite. After all, you can drink water but you sure can't eat coal!

Yours Sincerely,

Isabella Roche