

Greg Brown  
PO Box 3060  
Exeter 2579 NSW

Attn: Executive Director, Resource Assessments  
Department of planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

**This is a submission to Hume Coal Project SSD 7172**

I object to this project and recommend that it be rejected.

I request that this submission **not** be abbreviated.

**1)** Firstly am compelled to inform you of the huge inconvenience and stress this has been to me and others, especially those like me who are unacustomed to protest and who now have no option other than to fight this MAD proposal. This one has been dragging on our own personal expense and time since 2010 so far. The odds are heavily stacked against us, having to confront cashed up multinational professionals who are all on wages or salaries.

**2)** This Proposal is in the wrong location.

Our Southern Highlands is a very unique, thriving and highly productive Agricultural and Service area. We have a very extensive and traditional Tourism industry, due to our Historic Heritage, of which "Berrima" itself is an example. The Southern Highlands has quick and easy accessability from Sydney and Canberra, as well as through traffic, being located between the two, and on both the major Rail & Freeway corridors that interconnect the whole of Eastern Australia. This includes from Melbourne, the South Coast and Adelaide to Queensland in the North and extends on each end to the West and Northern Territory.

The Hume EIS completely underates this reality and is in total conflict with our existing landuse, way of life and Environmentally clean Country image and Sustainable purpose.

The technology that the coal is to be used in, is polluting the ecosystem on a Global scale and is outdated.

The Southern Highlands is rapidly adopting sustainable practices with a huge uptake in Solar Energy, Recycling, Sustainable Building Technology, Gardening and Food Security in Sustainable Agriculture.

The area is also a huge attraction for both Road and Mountain Bike Cyclists with specialised Mountain Bike facilities and Fire trails, there are also World class events for both. Our area is particularly suited to cycling due to its cooler climate and many varied flat routes being easily found with hilled areas for those more adventuress or with electric bikes. Council is supporting Road Cyclists for both commuting and Tourism with an extensive staged plan to extend its cycle ways from Wingello in the South towards Picton in the North. Then to link in all our other outlying villages to this, Including "Historic Berrima".

The Southern Highlands services an almost endless supply of relaxed and varied accommodation from camping, Hostel or Bed and Breakfast to Resort. Dining from many businesses including Restraunts to coffee shops. Attractions are also endless, in amongst forest to Farming vistas we find Wineries and small Village Pubs, Falls and Morton National Park to name a few. We are engaged in efforts to reduce our Environmental Footprint and preserve the Environmental Habitat including Species Diversity, & reduce Greenhouse emissions.

Coal for Thermal Energy production is unsustainable and outdated. Solar Energy and other renewable resources from Biomimicry are the new standard we must persue, NOW!

**3)** The dangers to our farming practice are very real, with well documented studies on the internet revealing the unforeseen litany of unintended, and unremeadiable disasters in the Southern Mine Fields.

This proposed coal mine on the Highlands has a very shallow overburden varying around 100 meters deep and includes the Sandstone aquifer that provides the bore water resource that is totally indespensable to our farming activity, an irreplaceable natural resource.

Even the EIS admits that 93 bores owned by 71 landholders will be affected lasting for decades, though our own experts say the impact will be far worse and in some

circumstance may never recover.

A proposal to pump toxic materials back underground, beggers belief!

The Feather method of mining proposed is relatively new and has not been used in these geological formations before.

There is a very real risk that permanent and unrepairable damage to these hundreds of million year old geological structures will occur through cracking, leaching, collapse and subsidence if not in living memory this could be over long time frames of hundreds or thousands of years. I note that this region is subject to an earthquake damage category above Newcastle, where major damage to structures occurred in the last big quake; experts believe that our big quake is overdue.

We need a moratorium in the Southern Highlands and on all other agricultural land and significant Habitat in Australia. Any further precedent to this activity here must be stopped.

**4)** I conclude that it would be impossible to calculate and therefore provide the required security funds to remediate any significant risk for damage caused to the functioning of this ancient aquifer resource.

To remove sequestered carbon and release it into the atmosphere in a period of unprecedented climate warming, associated with human activity, is Problematic, if not currently, catastrophic .

However, interfering with hundreds of million year old geological structure aquifers that are an essential scarce resource for food production:-

- In a country with an ever growing population density that is stealthily building over our best viable farmland.
- For such an insignificant financial gain for an insignificant moment of time; compared to their usefulness to mankind and our Habitat forever,

**" THIS IS MADNESS!"**

**I ask the Government to reject this project**

Greg Brown

Exeter