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Executive Director - Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39,
Sydney NSW 2001

30th June 2017

Re: Submission opposing the proposed Hume Coal Mine

I write on behalf of Farmers for Climate Action to express concern over the proposed Hume Coal mine in the Southern Highlands. We call upon the NSW State Government to support Australian farmers and promote a sustainable future agricultural production in the Southern Highlands.

Farmers for Climate Action is a movement by farmers, working for farmers and rural communities calling for climate solutions and supporting rural Australia to adapt to changing climatic conditions. Our network of over 2,000 Australian farmers and industry leaders are drawn from a diverse array of agricultural industries and from both sides of politics. Farmers for Climate Action believe in preserving the viability of Australian agriculture for future generations of Australian farmers.

Farmers for Climate Action is primarily concerned about potential ramifications for underground water as a result of this project with the Environmental Impact Statement acknowledging an extended 'drawdown' from the water table and local bores as a result of the proposed mine. Potential damage to ecosystem services including healthy soils and access to safe ground water is a high concern for Farmers for Climate Action.

Farmers' reliability of production is already challenged and impacted by climate change. Recently compiled data from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences demonstrates that despite on-farm adaptation, climate change is impacting on agricultural productivity across many of Australia's food producing regions.

In response to the impacts of climate change being felt on Australian farms, Farmers for Climate Action is committed to supporting a rapid transition away from fossil fuels and towards a renewable energy future. Subsequently, Farmers for Climate Action is deeply alarmed by reports that the Hume Coal project will not only be extracting coking coal, but also thermal.

The continually increasing production challenges caused by climate change mean that Australia must preserve and regenerate the valuable food and fibre producing lands currently under farm management and the underground aquifers upon which many depend. The Southern Highlands has a long, proud farming tradition and we urge State Government to seriously consider the impact that

damage to underground water supplies could have upon ecosystem health and farm productivity.

Farmers for Climate Action understands that many members of the local community, and rural landholders have voiced opposition to this project and we urge the State Government to ensure that the voices of Australia's food and fibre producers are clearly heard throughout the decision making process.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this submission in further detail.

Yours sincerely



Verity Morgan-Schmidt

Chief Executive Officer

Farmers for Climate Action

References:

ABARES *Farm Performance and Climate: Climate Adjusted Productivity for Broadacre Cropping Farms*
May 2017,

Accessible via:
http://data.daff.gov.au/data/warehouse/9aas/2017/FarmPerformanceClimate/FarmPerformanceClimate_v1.0.0.pdf