

Sally Harvey

128/140 Nowra Road

Moss Vale

NSW 2577

30TH June 2017

THIS IS A SUBMISSION TO THE HUME COAL PROJECT EIS.SSD7172

My husband and I are the owners of Mount Ashby Estate situated on the Nowra Road approximately 4 kilometres east of Moss Vale. The property is on land that was part of the original grant to the Throsby family in the early 1800s

Mount Ashby Estate is a boutique Vineyard and includes a tasting area and restaurant with approximately 100000 visitations annually. We have owned the property since 1999 and have been involved with local tourism since we opened in 2006. Our property consists of 100 acres with extensive grazing and a carrying capacity of 60 head. Since inception it has supported dairy cattle in conjunction with a dairy farm adjacent.

Water.

It is almost certain that should Hume Coal proceed with the project that the aquifer upon which we rely for our water will be affected. I would like to put Hume Coal on notice that should the project proceed and should there be any effect on flow rate to our bore then we will take legal action for the loss that we will experience. Our business is totally reliant on water from the aquifer to irrigate our vineyard and produce and to provide water to our livestock.

Tourism

Our Cellar Door and Café Restaurant handles almost 100000 sittings per year. We have seen this grow from a very low base over the past ten years. The Southern Highlands has become a major tourism attraction only 1 ½ hours from both Sydney and Canberra. Berrima, Bundanoon, Burrawang as well as Bowral and environs of Mittagong have become a major attraction to visitors wishing to experience the clean green rural environment and enchanting villages of the Southern Highlands.

The Hume Coal EIS has totally misrepresented this situation and the positioning of a mine and associated washery in close proximity to Berrima would be absolutely disastrous to the tourism industry and the Southern Highlands as a whole.

Employment

The largest employer in the Wingecarribee Shire is tourism which is increasing exponentially as the area becomes better known for its clean green rural environment, a desirable location for weddings and as an equine area. The employment by Hume Coal is minimal in comparison particularly in the long term following construction of the mine and associated infrastructure. The mine will affect the tourism industry which will experience a reduction in employment due to the disruption, pollution, noise from trains and degradation of the area.

Coal and its impact on Global Warming

It is a proven fact threat coal is a major contributor to global warming. Virtually every other alternative to coal fired power has been proven to be cleaner and less of a threat to global warming. Coal fired power stations and the use of coal in the steel making process are a thing of the past. Why Hume Coal is even considering this mine and washery makes absolutely no sense in the current and future world environment.

The project being put forward by Hume Coal will be catastrophic to the Southern Highlands region, it will provide minimum employment probably a reduction with the effect on tourism. It will be a major pollutant from coal dust, noise and diesel fumes, it will provide minimum return to the state government. It makes no economic sense.

I strongly urge the Government to reject this project

Signed

Sally Harvey