

Submission in response to the EIS into the Hume Coal Mine  
Proposal

**Submission in Opposition to the Hume Coal Sutton Forrest  
Coal Mine**

**Application: SSD 15\_7172**

From Elizabeth Murray

As a landowner and ratepayer located in Berrima, less than 2km from the proposed Hume Coal Mine. I despair at the ongoing contemplation of this mine and I am profoundly opposed to it.

This so called 'low impact' new coal mine has a stock pile of coal 800 metres long x 50 metres wide x 25 metres high it will be an unwelcome, intrusive and overbearing blight in this beautiful landscape.

The mine jeopardises everything that makes the Southern Highlands a celebrated destination to live and visit: its beautiful landscapes, fertile soils, liveable townships, and economic vibrancy and sustainability into the future.

**Wingecarribee Shire is culturally significant** because it has beautiful landscapes and historic villages, it enjoys enormous biodiversity and supports native flora and fauna many of which are endangered. The historic village of Berrima is one of the best-conserved towns from the colonial period of Australia.

**Wingecarribee Shire is environmentally significant** because it is located 120kms of Sydney, within the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment area the integrity of which is critical to the residents of greater Sydney and NSW, nothing should endanger this fragile and precious resource. Protection of the regions water assets is fundamental both locally and regionally.

**Wingecarribee Shire is economically significant** through the existing employment within tourism, the food, wine and hospitality industry providing the kind of sustainable future that will ensure jobs and economic viability well into the future.

**Wingecarribee Shire is agriculturally significant** because the region has been identified as strategically important for Sydney's food needs now and in the future.

**Wingecarribee Shire is ecologically significant** because the regions water assets are fundamental for biodiversity, the agricultural industry and these are the foundation of our future growth and economic opportunities.

Previous coal mines in the area have resulted in an existing detrimental environmental legacy.

What does coal mining really mean for the Southern Highlands and what happens in the aftermath of the exploitation of these non-renewable resources?

**Hume Coal's proposed mine will make Wingecarribee Shire noisy** due to the truck movements hauling huge amount of material to the site including limestone and other rock from offsite to be crushed and pumped into the mine along with significant train movements.

**Hume Coal's proposed mine will make Wingecarribee Shire a health hazard** because wherever coal is being extracted from the earth there is increased health problems caused by circulating coal dust, diesel emissions and water pollution. There is no such thing as a safe threshold for coal dust the result is more asthma, allergies and respiratory disease.

**Hume Coal's proposed mine makes Wingecarribee Shire UGLY** because the proposed mine and rail infrastructures are very large and visually prominent and will impact views both public and private. The nature of the landscape means that the mine will be visible from the Hume Highway along with both entry and exit of Berrima from the Highway and Bowral. As a local, a tourist or in transit it will be inescapably prominent.

**Hume Coal's proposed mine makes Wingecarribee Shire UNSUSTAINABLE** because it will destroy the existing food and cultural tourism resulting in the loss of sustainable and growth employment in the future. The negative association of mining with destroy the existing and perceived qualities of WS as a pristine environment.

I have concerns about the detrimental impact to groundwater, water catchments, agricultural land and tourism. In 2016 the Wingecarribee Shire was declared a Coal Mine Free Shire this is a resounding NO to new mines from this engaged and outraged community.

Hume Coal's proposed mine endangers Wingecarribee Shire's future because with a defined utility of the mine of just 23 years what is left for the next generation?

China and India are making huge shifts into renewals and the worldwide transformation is underway, we are at a crossroads we should not be delaying the transformation. What is right for the already fragile environment, the growing population and the stressed ecosystem. We must acknowledge that there is a connection that needs to be respected and restored. Canberra just 165kms away is seeking to have 100% renewable target and the cheapest energy in Australia. Do the economics stack up for destroying the natural and aesthetic beauty of an already vibrant, viable enclave which can only become more rare and special in the future.