

*These people
do not kill
Hume!*

Name

Address

Date: 18 / 6 / 2017

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

This is a submission to the Hume Coal Project EIS. SSD 7172

I object to this project and believe it should be rejected due to

THE POOR ECONOMICS OF THE HUME COAL PROJECT.

From the data in the EIS it is apparent that the project is unprofitable, with negative investment returns.

- This is a small mine and costly to operate.
- The product mix revealed in the EIS results in lower revenue than previously put forward, with nearly half the production low value thermal coal.
- The only way that the mine can improve its profitability would be to significantly increase production, making the EIS invalid in its present form.
- BAEconomics have not been asked to undertake the sensitivity analysis of how much output prices would need to fall for the project to have a zero NPV because Hume Coal considers it to be "commercial in confidence". (EIS Appendix Q page 42). This is unacceptable and an apparent inability to meet the 2015 guidelines for an EIS.

THE REJECT EMPLACEMENT AND BULKHEAD ISSUES

- The Metropolitan Colliery emplaced at least some of their rejects in mined voids in recent years. This operation required extensive experimentation over a number of years.
- They had the advantage of knowing the exact composition of their reject material and voids that were well away from current mining areas.
- The Airly Colliery considered this method of reject disposal but decided it posed unacceptable safety and other concerns.
- In contrast the Hume EIS assumes that reject emplacement behind bulkheads is a risk free process. The design of the bulkheads is complex and their construction in an operating environment is problematic.

This is a very risky proposal and I urge the Government to reject this project.

Signature

If you wish to maintain your privacy in this submission from the department's website please tick this box:



I have not made a reportable political donation.



OPINION

southernhighlandnews.com.au/opinion

Health with Nyema Hermiston

Consider coal health risks

WHEREVER coal is being extracted from the earth, there is a population with increased health problems caused by circulating coal dust, diesel emissions and water pollution.

Underground mining, as is proposed in the Southern Highlands, would result in up to 400,000 tonne stockpiles of coal above ground, and transported to a rail line along Medway Road, via Berriema, then Moss Vale and Robertson.

Massive amounts of coal dust are released in the loading and transportation process. In a strong wind, nothing stops coal dust spreading through the air kilometres away and remaining in the air for days. The World Health Organisation says: "There is no such thing as a safe threshold for coal dust."

When fine particles of coal dust that are 10 times smaller than pollens are breathed

in, people get more asthma, allergies and respiratory disease. In the tiny particles of coal dust are heavy metals at low concentrations, which can cause neurological problems.

Increased diesel emissions from mining equipment cause irritation to the nose, throat, lungs, causing acute allergies, coughs, colds and headaches. Both coal dust and diesel fumes cause lung cancer.

Health effects of water pollution are more difficult to measure. Around 100 bores in the Southern Highlands would be affected if the chemical containing slurry waste from washing the coal was pumped below ground into pristine aquifers, which are the water supply for many food producers in the area.

The water is used on crops and for livestock to drink, increasing the long term chem-



In coal mining communities in Australia laundry can be blackened with coal dust and children get more allergies and asthma. **Photo: File**

Laundry is blackened with coal dust
Children get more allergies and asthma
Respiratory illness increases throughout the community

More children develop learning difficulties and autism from the increased heavy metal load

Coal dust leaches galvanised roofs and contaminates water tanks
Farming families start reporting strange symptoms and illnesses in themselves and their animals, caused by water contamination.
There is no nice picture, nor healthy ending for coal mining communities. The internet is awash with David and Goliath stories of communities fighting for compensation for the health damage done by coal. Submissions can be made at <http://www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au> under Hume Coal

ical and heavy metal content of produce. Coal workers are not monitored, nor protected from coal dust, diesel emissions or water pollution.

In coal mining communities in Australia and around the world, here's what it looks like: