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PCU071404



27 July 2017

June SK

The Executive Director
Resource Assessments
Dept. Planning & Environment
c/o PO Box 30
Sydney NSW 2001.

Department of Planning
Received

29 JUN 2017

Scanning Room

Re: Hume Coal Project EIS SSD7172

Dear Sir,

The executive summary for this project EIS. SSD7172 reads as if it were written 50 years ago before the effects of greenhouse gas emissions were as well understood as they are now & well before the global efforts to minimize the use of coal.

The statement that "this coalmine will achieve intergenerational equity by transforming natural capital (coal) into social capital" is in my view economic and

Oswellian in its double speak.
It flies in the face of all current understanding of the negative social, environmental, landscape, heritage and tourism impacts not only in the local community but indeed on the climate system generally.

The EIS system where the proponents hire consultants who are bound to give the most positive assessments, predictions and "modelling" is in itself one which encourages conflicts of interest and overly optimistic guesswork or speculation as to what might or might not happen in reality. I will outline why this proposed mine is not in the local communities or regions interest and should be unconditionally rejected.

Situated within a 1 - 1 1/2 hour radius of Sydney there is a close interaction with this fast growing metropolis. A large part of Sydney's growth is in apartment building and the population increase reflects in the need for rest, recreation and recuperation in the areas surrounding it. The Southern

Highlands are such an area. —

Mittagong, Berrima, Moss Vale, Bowral, Bundanoon, smaller villages and the beautiful agricultural land and National Parks provide many thousands of Sydney people with those rest and recreation facilities and opportunities. Tourism already is it not the most important collection of industries and services in the Southern Highlands will accelerate in its growth as the population of Sydney increases. Coal mining extraction, storage & transport constitute a significant threat to the future of the citizens of adjacent towns — Berrima, Sutton Forest, Exeter. It is a significant threat to the development of the tourist and agricultural sectors that make the Southern Highlands special and sought after for those purposes. Coal mining is an incompatible & damaging industry.

That damage, which is downplayed or entirely overlooked in the EIS is

1. Significant effects on the order, ground water supplies and pollution & contamination of ground water, creek & river systems as well as

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Threat to drinking water and water storage systems both locally & because of elevated location to Sydney Water Catchment systems.

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2. The pollution of air in the establishment, mining, storage & transportation processes cannot be clearly understood as a theoretical exercise. The precautionary principle would encourage caution rather than underestimation. Strong

Southerly & Westerly winds in late winter & early spring could have serious consequences on air quality and lead to respiratory diseases in especially the young & the older population. There are many retirement villages and retired people living in the S.H. precisely because of the quality and cleanliness of the air.

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The effects of diesel fumes are ignored in the EIS whereas it is now being clarified that diesel fumes are very dangerous, carcinogenic & have extremely serious consequences on those who come in continuous contact with them. Emissions from heavy vehicles, trains & operating machinery

could not be contained and would spread into the general atmosphere with possibly grave consequences to people who inhale them.

This again is a serious threat to the environment as it exists of the people living there.

3. LANDSCAPE The highlands are renowned for their physical beauty and as previously mentioned that is a significant draw card bringing tourists and business to the area.

A massive coal mine with huge storage stacks is a negative and undesirable intrusion. To pretend that a wall with trees planted is to somehow hide this massive physical intrusion into the landscape is indicative of the wishful thinking of this EIS. It has been estimated that the cavity produced would be equivalent to the volume of UURU. I have not been able to verify this estimate. However, where is the fill to re-instate this massive cavity to come from? And what if the company goes bankrupt before terminating its work.

P6.
We have seen that hundreds of mines
are abandoned, sold for \$1 and
that various ruses of techniques are
used to avoid "remediation". And
indeed is "remediation" possible. I
doubt it and I doubt that the
effects on the local water table
can be even remotely predicted.

To approve of a mine which will
have clearly understandable
negative and possibly dangerous
consequences would be an act
counter to the wishes of most citizens
and counter to logic.

The pitfalls, consequences and
unforeseen and obvious dangers of
such a project cannot be predicted
or modelled with any degree of
accuracy.

It should therefore be rejected in
its totality and I appeal to those in
charge of this assessment to reject it.