

RE HUME COAL PROJECT - MINE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE - SSD7172
BERRIMA RAIL PROJECT - SSD 7171

As a long term resident of Berrima I am most concerned about the effect Hume Coal's proposed coal mine and its associated rail development would have on the lives of the residents and the environment of the Southern Highlands.

A primary concern is the effect on our health as the mine is on the western perimeter of the area and the prevailing westerly winds would carry coal dust from the three stock piles, including from one with high toxicity, over the towns and villages. This pollution would impact particularly on the health of the more vulnerable members of our communities - on the children, the elderly and the chronically ill. My husband has emphysema and noticeably struggles to breathe when the air quality is impaired.

This air pollution, as well as noise from the mine and the proposed eight coal trains per day, would impact not only on the quality of life of Berrima residents but also on the village's economy. The majority of Berrima's businesses are geared towards and depend on tourism and the pollution and noise created by the mine would have an adverse affect on their viability.

The viability of many of the varied agricultural pursuits in the Highlands between Medway and Sutton Forest who depend on bore water could also be affected as the mine has the potential to deplete aquifers and

lower the water table, groundwater could also be contaminated by the water used to wash the coal, particularly if it is, as proposed, pumped back down the mined areas.

For the above reasons I request that Hume Coal's proposal for a mine and railway development be refused.

