

Name :

Address

Date :

Attn: Executive Director,

Resource Assessment Department of Planning and Environment.

GPO Box 39

Sydney NSW 2001

This is a submission to the Hume Coal Project SSD7172

I object to this project and recommend that it be rejected.

I retired to the historic village of Berrima 3 years ago because of the beauty of the environment and to get away from the noise, traffic and pollution of Sydney. Everything I have read in the EIS makes me concerned that this mine will be an environmental catastrophe to the region and the broader Sydney Water Catchment area. The EIS presents a litany of reasons why you should recommend a resounding **NO** to this project.

My concerns are:

- Who will the Government be giving our land away to ? POSCO, the parent company of Hume Coal, has a well documented history of Corruption and abuse of human rights, including using child labour. This alone should be reason enough to say NO to this project.
- The Government is not representing us properly how did this Hume Coal project get so far? Why are you perpetuating leases on sensitive land?
- In 25 years when the environment is degraded and Sydney's Water supply has been compromised, will you be telling your Grandchildren that it was due to your Department recommending approval of a toxic mine in the pristine environment of the Southern Highlands. Or will you be able to tell them you helped saved it?

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- Berrima is part of our Australian Heritage it has been recorded as the most intact Georgian Town in the whole of Australia. This village has been able to maintain its identity through rigorous heritage regulations and the success of Tourism in the area has enabled businesses to grow. The prospect of a polluting coal mine on our doorstep, dust, noise and the visual impact of ugly mining infrastructure, traffic, trucks and coal laden trains, spraying coal dust all over the place, can only detract from the popularity of the village and indeed the entire area.
- The EIS completely misrepresents employment in the Southern Highlands. Especially in specialty areas of Tourism and the new and booming Agritourism Industry. These 2 alone already provide more employment in the area than Hume Coal say they will and have the potential to employ far more than the coal mine ever will. BUT the coal mine has the potential to destroy all this. What guarantee can you give us that this will not happen?
- Employers and business owners in the entire region are reluctant to invest and grow their businesses at present in light of the threat of the Coal Mine. We as land owners in Berrima are afraid that as has happened in the Hunter Valley our properties will become worthless. How can you guarantee that this wont happen here?
- Coal dust in the atmosphere has the potential to fall on our roof where we catch our drinking water, would Hume Coal pay for us to be hooked up to Town Supply if our rain water were contaminated?
- What guarantee that the pristine beauty of our rural environment , which brings a lot of visitors, will be not ruined? Trains, trucks, coal stacks, Mining Infrastructure, can not be hidden by planting a few trees.
- Where are these workers coming from? What about the implications of this large additional workforce in the area? Extra use of Roads and infrastructure.
- Is there any plan in place if, the Hume Highway, under which this mine will burrow and other properties in the area, were caused to subside? As has happened in many mined areas .

- This is one of the most productive water systems in NSW . Our water is at risk . Sydney's water is at risk. What happens when our water is contaminated and farm bores dry up. Olive Groves, Vineyards, Cattle Farms, Sheep, Food Production , life in general, is threatened by this mine. How can you approve a project for a resource, which represents a poor economic return to NSW, where the potential environmental damage will be catastrophic?
- What about our health and wellbeing? Already I have sleepless nights and am anxious and worried at the prospect of this mine, destroying the environment for generations to come. According to the EIS , toxic mine rejects will be stored above ground for the first 2 years this and noise, coal dust and diesel emissions have the capacity to ruin the quality of life I came here to enjoy.

Every member of the planning department and Government who has a say in the approval of this project must come and visit the region to see for themselves what is at stake here. There could never be enough benefit to this area that could compensate for the havoc and destruction this mine will wreak on the entire region.

The Hume Coal EIS is a thoroughly disturbing document.

I ask the Government to reject this project

