



16 June 2017

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

SSD 15-7172

This is a submission to the Hume Coal Project EIS SSD7172

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

We have great concern about the impact of this mine proposal on our home, business, lifestyle, and the general health and welfare of the local community. The continuous loss of groundwater during the lifespan of this project will have a devastating effect on in this pristine farming community and effect the viability of local agribusinesses.

For context, we established our one hundred acre holding in 1989. When we bought the property it was only pastureland. It did not even have one tree on it! Since then we have built our house, managers residence, shedding, stock yards and stock loading facilities, 5 acres of landscaped gardens and mature windbreaks. Our property has been producing prime Angus meat for the Sydney market for over 25 years. Our product is considered some of the best on the Highlands. Our property is directly above the proposed mine workings. We are very concerned about the detrimental effect that this proposal will have on both water and infrastructure on our farm.

On studying the maps in the EIS, we are devastated to find that our property in Kardinia Lane is in an extremely vulnerable position in regards to underground activity and water impact.

The main underground roadway for mining operations we find, will be directly below our home We understand these roadways will remain open for the life of the mine, i.e. minimum 19 years with a possibility of extensions. The blasting required to install underground roadways and infrastructure and continuous traffic movements underground during the mines lifespan, will cause a lot of vibration and result in damage to two homes and four farm

sheds, all build on concrete slabs. Who will be monitoring subsidence and take responsibility for any damage caused by this activity? The underground workings will also create noise, destroying our daily amenity. This is a quiet rural location which makes any background noise very obvious.

It is no surprise then, that our bore, which we rely on for stock, pasture and plantings, is shown as one of the first which needs to be "replaced". We understand that the mine requires a conservative estimate of 2 mega litres of water annually to operate, and that the water licences Hume Coal currently holds is only a small percentage of that required. They will make up the shortfall by tapping into the same aquifer we rely on for our daily use. We will not have access to this water for our daily needs from our bores. Hume has stated they will "replace" our water but they have given no detail on how this is to manifest - are we to water stock with bottled water!

Our suspicions have also been heightened by the fact that early on in the process, some landholders in our area had been visited by representatives of Hume Coal outlining the "minimal impact" the mine will have on their bores. We have had no direct contact from Hume Coal representatives, only a letter in 2015. This letter outlined a promise by Hume Coal to restore our water supply or "provide an alternative that meets our requirements". It would take many tanker loads of water to provide for a herd of cows during the hot summer months when the dams dry up. It is therefore understandable that we have strong reservations about the integrity of Hume's ability to "make good" the damage they will do and thus strongly object to this mine being approved.

We have spent 26 years establishing gardens, windbreaks and improving the pastures of the property and are also concerned about water for this infrastructure if our bores are dry, and the whole water table drops by 40 m. It will greatly impact our livelihood, amenity and shelter for stock from the weather.

Finally, over the six years of battling Hume Coal we have seen the health impact on many of our neighbours. Stress, family breakdowns, financial deprivations, all have all been the result of this ongoing process. Property prices have plummeted for some of the most productive farms in the Highlands. We are aware of neighbours who cannot get loans to expand their agri businesses because land values have dropped by a third during the past six years due to the uncertainty of a proposed mine site underneath them. Then there is the ongoing health risks associated with mining - coal dust generated during storage and transportation and then the risk of water

pollution from the actual mining waste getting into our ecosystems. It is all too big a risk for such a small return (so little of which will be beneficial to the community). We cannot accept this proposal and reject it wholeheartedly.

We understand that for this submission to be accepted, we are required to state that we have not made any political donations in the previous two years, and we hereby confirm that we have made no political donations of any sort. We would also like to request that our contact details be withheld when publishing on the Department's website.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.