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Date: 16 June 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.

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

- Risks to groundwater are too great: the project will seriously affect at least 93 bores owned by 71 landowners, with some drawn down by up to 80 metres.
- Hume Coal plans to reinject potentially toxic mine waste back into the mine. This risks pollution of groundwater in the aquifer above the mine.
- Research conducted in April 2017 by Galaxy Research found that support for the coal mine among Wingecarribee Shire residents is just 18%.
- Dangerous coal dust and diesel emissions caused by coal trains all pose a threat to human health, particularly the elderly and children.
- Hume Coal claims that it will only need to pump mine water into Oldbury Creek on rare occasions. It doesn't have a Water Treatment Plant in its plans so if they are wrong about the amount of water there is a serious risk of toxic mine waste water polluting the local river system which is part of the Sydney drinking water catchment.
- Hume Coal trains will add an extra 24 minutes of closures at rail level crossings every day. This creates unacceptable delays on emergency service response times.
- POSCO has an appalling international track record for corruption, environmental destruction and/or human rights abuse, which is well documented in countries including India, Uzbekistan, South Korea, Vietnam and West Papua.
- Over six long years, the uncertainty caused by the prospect of a coal mine in the district has caused anxiety, depression and ill-health in the community. Hume Coal's aggressive approach and lack of transparency exacerbated the situation. This will be made much worse if Hume Coal's mine is approved.
- A new report by The Australia Institute about the project, found that it could damage the economy of the Southern Highlands.
- *Having seen the effects of coal mines in the Hunter Valley I believe a mine near historic and beautiful Benning and its surrounds is totally short-sighted and inappropriate.*

I want a clean and positive future for the Southern Highlands. I don't want destructive mining threatening local farmers, communities, water and ecosystems, therefore I urge the Government to reject this project and protect the Southern Highlands.

Signed,

Collette Dash