

Dermer Bennett

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Attn: Executive Director, Resource Assessments Department of

Planning and Environment

GPO Box 39 Sydney 2001

This is a submission to the Hume Coal Project SSD7172

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

I have lived and worked in the Mudgee-Kandos region of NSW and have seen first hand what the results are from coal mining.

The miners will always say they have adequate holding dams in place for any eventuality – they don't. At the first event of heavy rain they would always overflow and salt up any streams or dams downstream rendering the water useless for agricultural use.

Rehabilitation was really just a token gesture and never adequate. Just leaving a mess.

The mines were there before us and we had to live with the situation.

This Hume Coal Project is different, it is a new mine. A Greenfield development, located where it will be an environmental disaster for the region's water, which is part of the Sydney Water Catchment Area and the town of BERRIMA one of the most intact examples of Georgian Architecture in the state of NSW.

We have destroyed so much of our heritage architecture in this state.

I strongly recommend that this proposal of Hume Coal be rejected.

Some of my concerns with the mine going ahead apart from the above reasons are as follows:

- What possible benefit can this mine bring that would outweigh the destruction that would be irreversibly wrought to:
 - a. The artesian water supply, the destruction of which will go on long after the closure of the mine especially as it is intended to pump polluted water back into the mine?

b. How can it be guaranteed that both contaminated surface and mine water won't foul up the waterways down stream rendering them useless for anything else other than a toxic drain?

- How can it be guaranteed that BERRIMA VILLAGE and surrounds will not be covered in coal, silica and toxic dust from the stock piles stored in the open on the mine site, brought in by the prevailing winds fouling both our roof water collected for drinking as well as the air we breathe?

(i.e. BLACK LUNG DISEASE)?

- How can it be guaranteed there will be no noise and diesel emissions impacting on the township of BERRIMA and surrounding area?
- During the life of the mine what guarantee do we have that coal will not be transported by road?
- How can the ongoing supply of water be guaranteed tho those landholders affected by the removal of water from the aquifer over many years becoming worse as the mine progresses.
- What guarantee is there that if and when this mine ceases operation before or after the allotted 20 years of proposed operation that there will be enough funds held in trust to effect a complete rehabilitation of the site and not just left as so many mines are for the people of the "common wealth" to pick up the tab?
- What guarantee is there that permission will **not** be sought to expand the mine in the future or that the method of extraction will **not** change to normal long wall or maybe even open cut mining?
- How can the economic return on this mine, situated within the SYDNEY DRINKING WATER CATCHMENT, ever compensate for the destruction of a "WORLD-CLASS "aquifer and the environmental damage and disruption to peoples lives?

This proposed mine is something that will inevitably add to global warming, ruin our drinking and agriculture water supplies and leave a very unfair mess for future generations to deal with,

Again, I ask the Government to reject this project.

Signed

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dermer Bennett". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name. A small, dark mark is visible to the left of the signature, possibly a stray pen stroke or a mark from the scanning process.

Dermer Bennett