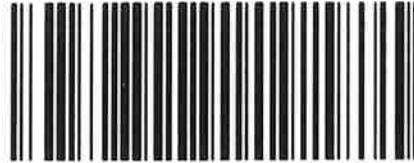


TO: THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS AND BUSINESS
SYSTEMS, PLANNING SERVICES DEPARTMENT.
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT. NSW GOVERNMENT.



NAME: Ann Mawson

ADDRESS: 6 Kelly Place Exeter. NSW. 2579

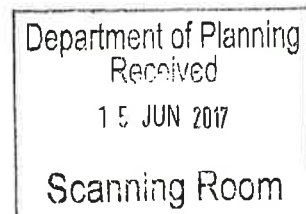
QUALIFICATIONS: Retired Registered Nurse. 45 years experience. Certificates:
General, Midwifery, Mothercraft, Mental Health, Drug Health (Clinical Nurse
Specialist)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Play saxophone in Community Band, at charity
fundraisers, at The Abby Nursing Home, Anzac Day ceremonies.
Assist in fundraising to aid Coal Free Southern Highlands.
Assisted in Blockade at Carter's Lane 10 months duration

I object to the development of an underground coal mine in the Southern
Highlands of NSW, by Hume Coal/POSCO, EIS SSD 15-7172 and recommend
that the proposal be rejected.

My reasons for this are as follows.

1. Risks to ground and surface water
2. Risks to biodiversity
3. Risks to community physical health
4. Risks to community mental health
5. Risks to the economy
6. Risks not addressed in EIS.



1. Risks to Water.

This project lies within Sydney Water catchment. According to the Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979, No. 203 34B "The proposed mine must have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality. This project will cause water drawdown up to 80 metres, affecting 93 landholder bores and recovery time of drawdown is estimated to be up to 65 years, rendering any form of agriculture in the area futile. Water taken from the aquifer, will be used to wash the extracted coal, then mixed with rock waste and pumped back into the mined out voids, causing contamination risk to the ground water system. Is this the water that will be used by landholders for their crops and grazing animals and what will be the damage done to the agricultural land?

During windy episodes coal dust from the very large stockpile of extracted coal will be blown into nearby waterways, what is the effect on the waterways? In this EIS, there is NO water treatment plant for toxic waste, which can overflow into existing waterways.

2. Risks to Biodiversity.

In EIS. Main report, part 6 chapter 10, there are just 55 pages in this extensive document dedicated to the flora fauna and ecosystems of the Southern Highlands. In 6.5 years just 1,600 person hours were spent in the field researching the effect of the project. Plus "Desk top studies". Is this acceptable? In Tables 10.12, 10.13 it is stated 64 paddock trees will be felled. Is this a Koala habitat? In their construction site they intend to fell hollow bearing trees and give the animals living there, 24 hours to relocate. Imagine the fear and panic. This is 100% animal cruelty. There will be just ONE FAUNA HANDLER there to rescue them. This as a sickening scenario. A fauna friendly fence will be built to maybe keep out koalas. What is a koala strike?(death) There has in NSW been a 26% loss in Koala population and 3,000 are living in the Southern Highlands. Will Hume Coal be adding to this senseless destruction. All nocturnal animals close by will be affected by 24/7 noise and lighting. In the EIS Hume Coal fail to address the drawdown risks to groundwater dependant ecosystems adjacent to the project area endangering Southern Highlands Shale Forest and Paddy's River Box trees. They have no intention of monitoring these threatened species or any other during the life of the mine. This is a poor effort of ongoing protection of

our flora fauna and ecosystems. They state they have purchased offset credits for Koalas, myotis but will wait until the mine is approved to buy offset credits for Squirrel Gliders. This in my opinion is an appalling effort to run roughshod over what the majority of the people in the Southern Highlands hold dear. I pity all these creatures, at the mercy of such barbarism.

3. Risks to physical health of the community.

Contamination of drinking water for the people and livestock.

Air quality will be compromised by the presence of coal dust silica, affecting the lungs especially of the children and older people, exacerbating the symptoms of asthma and emphysema. Although there is no solid data there is risk of lead and cadmium showing at high levels in the blood. Who will check monitoring of an increase in these illnesses. There is no cure for chronic obstructive airway disease and as a registered nurse have seen children with asthma struggling to breathe, and older people dying in agony. Noise and light pollution have been minimized in this EIS. Insomnia is also dismissed as something that will likely NOT happen. No person can exist and function without sleep.

4.Risks to Community Mental Health.

As a retired registered Mental and Drug Health Nurse. 10 years at Rozelle Hospital, Sydney, and 5 years at Canterbury Hospital, I conducted a mini mental health questionnaire on those living close to and within the project area. 30 people.

"During the last 6-7 years, you have faced the possibility of the development of a large Coal Mine (by Hume Coal) in the Sutton Forest area of the SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS of NSW, as a result of this have you experienced any of the following? 30 yes to Anxiety, 22 to feelings of hopelessness and helplessness, 18 people to insomnia, 7 people to suicidal thoughts, 8 people to homicidal thoughts, 10 people to increased alcohol abuse.

If the mine is approved all 30 people believe that these feelings will persist and or increase.

None of this has been addressed in the EIS, in fact people have felt “bullied” and treated with contempt by this company, by mail, through the local radio station and via the local newspaper.

5 .Risks to the local economy.

The loss of jobs in tourism(which has increased by 39% in 5 years) and agriculture far outweighs the jobs that will be created by a coal mine. It is well known much of the machinery is now and will be, automated, as a cost saving measure. A large part of the demographic of the Southern Highlands is made up of retirees and older people. This group contribute significantly to the support of employment. They support the employment of 6 people each, ie. Carers, cleaners, home nurses, gardeners, bus drivers, taxi drivers, chemist assistants, hospital staff, doctors etc. the list is endless. A coal mine in situ will make the Southern Highlands a much less attractive destination for retirees, because of the health risks of the presence of a coal mine. I believe the Historic town of Berrima and all the businesses there, will surely perish. Property values have dropped and the prospect of selling a home has lessened considerably . I live in Exeter and sales here are low and slow.

6. Trains.

Living in proximity to a coal carrying train line will be physically unbearable with noise and coal dust pollution a threat 24/7.

7. Risks NOT addressed in Hume Coal’s EIS.

This is an experimental mine and is therefore being proposed with NO evidenced based facts.

This mine will be operating beneath a large area of the Hume Highway, which carries a very large amount of heavy vehicle traffic. In the EIS no subsidence issues have been addressed.

“A small amount of radioactive material will be stored on site”.

The mine will pass beneath a present gas pipeline.

In the event of a catastrophic industrial accident there is not a contingency plan .

Bowral Hospital is ill equipped to cope with such an event. There is 1 resuscitation bed. Nil intensive care beds, 9 beds in the emergency department.

The parent Company have a very bad record for corruption, human rights. What chance our native animals!!!!!!.

I strongly recommend that this project be cancelled and made NULL AND VOID FOREVER.

FROM EDMUND MUNK "NATURE IS SCREAMING IN MY BLOOD"

From Joni Mitchell and me

"I am the Wingecaribee, PITY ME.

written by ANN MAWSON
A. Mawson.