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ATTN. Executive Director, Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
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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 am greatly concerned about the effects this project is going to have on the local environment, residents livelihood , pollution, infrastructure and the ruination of the aquafer that is unique in its one of the largest in the world.

There are 93 bores owned by 71 landowners that have no other means of water and this project is going to significantly reduce the usage (which Hume Coal has admitted) and will take several decades to replenish when the project has finished. As we understand 19 years. These landholders rely on water for there businesses which include Vineyards, Dairying Equestrian Cropping and many other enterprises.

This area is well known for the Historic Homes and Gardens, Farm Stays and Bed & Breakfast which all attract Tourism to the area. **Without water these industries cannot operate or be maintained.**

As I see this project it is a small mine with second rate coal and the economics do not add up. The **EIS fundamentally misrepresents the economy of the Southern Highlands**

I was born in the area and have lived and owned an agricultural business all my life and believe that the NSW GOVERNMENT should take a lead and **protect this unique area.**

Ruth Chittick

