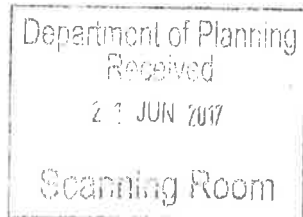




PCU071277

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Date: 17th 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 SSD 7172

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

Forty years ago I moved to the Southern Highlands (as Barnaby Joyce now suggests). In exchange for a large drop in income I have enjoyed the benefits of clean air, peace, quiet, open spaces, beautiful scenery, less congestion & a friendly country community.

The government and local shire council continue to encourage people to move here. It does not seem fair to entice people to an area where they change their lifestyles & contribute to the new community, then impose a coal mine on them.

In this submission I will leave the statistical information to the relevant experts and speak of my own personal concerns.

I ask the Government to reject this project

Signed, Margaret A. Hahn

If you wish to maintain your privacy in this submission from the department's website please tick this box

- request your name be withheld from the list of submitters and
- not include any of your personal information in your submission or attachments.



Offensive, threatening, defamatory or other inappropriate material will not be published

I The Environmental Cost

(i) Water

- risk of polluting local and Sydney Catchment areas. No matter what assurances companies give, accidents do happen. Not a risk worth taking.
- lowering of water table (admitted in EIS) would lead to loss of livelihood to farmers - crops, animals, viticulture, olives, orchards. No way this can all be properly compensated for.
- loss of vegetation, both native and exotic → loss of fauna. If there is a drought this would never recover.

(ii) Air pollution

- this district is renowned for its severe W & N-W winds. With enormous stockpiles of coal at the mine site coal dust pollutants would blow over Berrima, Mittagong.
- Bowral with Westerlies; and over Moss Vale, Sutton Forest, Exeter & Bundanoon with North-Westerlies.
- coal trains - would the wagons be covered?

(iii) Visual Amenify

- the Southern Highlands is one of the most beautiful locations in

N.S.W. It is visited regularly by both Australian & overseas visitors. To risk spoiling this is unthinkable.

(iv) Earthquakes

- we have experienced earth tremours here - a large one just a few years ago.
- How can a mine prepare for the unknown?

II The Human Cost

- (i) Psychological - everyone seems very anxious about this proposal. Whenever locals meet it comes up in conversation
- in Exeter in recent years we have had to fight against: -
 - a) a gravel quarry (2 Royal Comms)
 - b) a power station - diesel-fired
 - c) a mega-tip
 - this cannot be good for the mental health of the population. We need a definitive answer.

(ii) Jobs

- mining companies often inflate the numbers of jobs they will create. But the numbers of jobs in tourism & agriculture in this district that could be lost will far outnumber what the mine could create.

- mines are largely mechanised these days
Any miners would have to come from outside the immediate district.
- the numbers are mis-represented in the EIS.

(iii) The Economy

- the local economy would suffer from the loss of jobs in tourism, agriculture
- accomodation, restaurants, coffee shops, retail shops, National Parks transport ... all would suffer.
- at present businesses are post poning expansion / development because of uncertainty.

III Returns

The financial returns speculated in the EIS do not seem sufficient to warrant the setting-up costs. One can only speculate the mine plans to expand if it gets going.

- royalties to State government seem small
- we are supposedly trying to reduce our dependence on coal. So why start another coal mine in a highly sensitive area?

CONCLUSIONS

- the Southern Highlands of N.S.W. is a favoured tourist/holiday destination for many people. It is less than two hours drive from three major cities - Sydney, Canberra & Wollongong. People come for the beautiful scenery, the fresh air, the autumn colours, the spring festivals. How could anyone even think of a coal mine here?
- who would monitor breaches by the mine? Is there such a government body? Is it adequately funded to do the job thoroughly?
- who will ultimately be responsible if the mine fails? Posco is a S. Korean company (with a poor track record).

There are more-acceptable and less-acceptable areas to mine coal. The Southern Highlands is definitely one of the latter.

Margaret S. Dahn
(written to the accompaniment of
Brahms' Symphony no. 1.)