

NSW Planning & Environment
Major Project Assessments

15 June 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Hume Coal Development Application Support

On behalf of the Board of Regional Development Australia Southern Inland I write in support of an application by Hume Coal for an underground coal mine in the Wingecarribee Shire Council area currently being considered by the NSW Government.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Southern Inland is part of a national network of 55 Regional Development Australia Boards across Australia. These Boards are made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the development of regional Australia.

RDA Southern Inland is a State and Federally funded non-government body encompassing seven local government areas; Upper Lachlan, Goulburn Mulwaree, Yass Valley, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Snowy-Monaro, Hilltops and of course Wingecarribee.

Our role is to promote economic development in the region by identifying opportunities for business development and linking businesses and community organisations with government grants, programs, infrastructure investments and approvals, creating jobs and encouraging prosperity for the region's population.

The Board has discussed the Hume Coal proposal at length and is thus conscious of the potential for negative impacts such a development could have on the surrounding area. We thus seek safeguards in the conditions of consent for the development for not only the surrounding environment but for the surrounding business environment.

It is stressed that the development should remain an underground coal mine with stringent dust minimisation measures employed.

The Southern Highlands is known for its green picturesque landscapes and quaint towns and villages. This in itself is a tourism drawcard for the area and a source of employment. It also has a growing wine and food produce industry. These are economic assets the area needs to retain.

Having highlighted the potential for negative impacts, the Board believes the positive impacts to the region's economy of this development cannot be overstated and should be pursued with all vigour. Jobs and the expenditure in the area that such a development will have can only lead to strong economic growth, which in turn should promote a complementary infrastructure programme and increase in the standard of living for the area.

RDA Southern Inland supports Hume Coal's application and wishes it and the people of the Southern Highlands every success in this project.

Yours faithfully



Mr. Mark Schweikert
Chairman
RDA Southern Inland

