

[REDACTED]

I am speaking against the project.

My husband Ron and I own a hundred acre property off [REDACTED] in Sutton Forest which we purchased in 1989. We run black angus cattle for the meat market and have done this successfully for 30 years, consistently presenting the highest quality animals for sale at the Moss Vale sales.

We attended a meeting at Moss Vale where Hume Coal presented maps and information about the proposed coal mine. We were devastated to discover that our home and farm were to be directly above the starting point of the underground workings/plan and our bore would be the first one to be affected by the underground workings. Of interest, Hume coal has never approached us at all about the fact that their main underground road/s will be directly under our main dwelling.

In 2015 we received a letter from Hume Coal stating that, should we loose our bore water due to workings of the mine, Hume Coal will "make good" our water supply. How this was to be done is rather a mystery as it was never explained and we have always been very concerned that this is just an empty promise. We rely on our bore water for the requirements of our cattle, especially during the hot summer months when the dams and Wells Creek traditionally dry up. Without our bore, we cannot water stock through the hot months or even the cooler months during periods of drought. Surely the present drought has brought home the absolute necessity for farmers to have access to an uninterrupted water supply

The possibility that the coal mine would be approved is a heavy black cloud over our future and has caused a great deal of ongoing stress in our lives. Instead of leaving our children a beautiful and productive property, without a bore water supply, it would be a desolate area of dead trees and gardens, and would be unable to carry stock of any kind. We were therefore greatly relieved when the DPE found the project to be against the public interest and we certainly urge the IPC to endorse that view.

The beautiful Southern Highlands should not be spoiled by the environmental impacts of a coal mine like so many other areas are.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our case

Ron and Anna Shead

