

## Aaron Brown

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**From:** J Tertini [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 February 2019 1:23 PM  
**To:** IPCN Enquiries Mailbox  
**Subject:** Posco Hume Coal Project

**Categories:** Aaron

### **A submission opposing this mining application**

**Please find listed below the four key reasons why I believe that this mining application should be rejected.**

#### **1.It is against the long term best interests of the Southern Highlands community**

Our political leaders are constantly telling us that the country's vision is "Jobs and Growth." Whilst accepting that this is a simple slogan designed for the unthinking and mass appeal, it actually leaves out what most Australians would term 'quality of life', something which is closely linked to the well-being and mental health of the general population. From what I have seen of Posco's justification for this mine, it is just about jobs and growth, damn the short and long term consequences.

As early as the mid 1800's, the Southern Highlands was recognised as a unique place for Sydneysiders to escape the stresses of the city.

Since then Sydney's massive and continuing population growth has made it even more imperative for such quick and easy escapes to be possible. The Southern Highlands is the closest such destination for many Sydney people, especially for the 4 million people who live west of the Harbour Bridge.

Vineyard owners like myself have recognised this potential, and based on the incredible and enduring success enjoyed by locations like the Yarra Valley in Victoria or Margaret River in WA, the Southern Highlands is quickly growing into a major and vibrant food, wine, wedding, and tourism location. These sustainable activities are attracting more and more visitors and providing more local jobs whilst maintaining the quality of life that is so valued by locals.

The examples mentioned, Yarra Valley and Margaret River, have achieved what few communities achieve – locals love living there and visitors love visiting.

In fact, the very pro-mining West Australian government has recognised the uniqueness and value of the Margaret River area and declared it a mining free zone. I imagine that any proposal to create a mine in the Yarra Valley would similarly be dismissed.

The reason being that most people do not find coal mining an attractive or interesting activity. In fact, quite the opposite. It is in conflict with sustainable agriculture, fine food and wines, art, music, outdoor pursuits like weddings and bushwalks, and all other pleasant visitor activities.

These kind of activities are supported by many Southern Highlanders because they are enduring and therefore create long term stability for locals. They also tend to be aesthetically pleasing, maintaining a good balance between rural and commercial activities. Mining does none of this. It may provide a temporary economic boost but when the mine closes (as has happened in many other parts of Australia) the locals are left jobless, often needing to move out of the area, leaving family and friends. I also believe that approving a coal mine in the Southern Highlands will discourage more investment in the visitor/local benign non-mining activities listed above.

#### **2.It is against the long term best interests of NSW,**

The NSW government has recognised that in **order** to encourage return trips or increased spending by international visitors to NSW there is a need for attractions beyond the Opera House and Harbour Bridge. Two areas with potential that have been identified are the Southern Highlands and the South Coast. Global food and wine tourism is one of the fastest growing economic activities, and needs to be encouraged in NSW. The Southern Highlands is an easy area for international tourists on short trips to access. It has huge growth potential.

As in point 1, there is a clash of interests amongst mining, tourism, and local amenity. Coal mining in the Southern Highlands is therefore not in the best interests of NSW.

### **3.It is against Australia's environmental interests.**

Whether the coal we extract is burned in Australia or somewhere like South Korea, most of its negative environmental effects are the same. Whilst accepting that there are different points of view on the causes of global climate change, there is a vast body of scientific opinion that supports an attitude of caution and emission reduction, rather than an attitude of she'll be right. This factor alone makes this mine very undesirable, at least until such time as the climate change debate well and truly establishes the truth about the effect of carbon emissions.

### **4.It may not be in the long term best interests of the farming community.**

Like many local farmers, our 3 vineyards rely entirely on bore water during the extreme dry periods experienced over the past few years. Coal mines and underground aquifers are enemies, fighting each other for survival. There are many who claim that this coal mine will adversely affect ground water. They could be wrong, but what a price to pay if they are right. It would wipe out many farming activities in the area. This is definitely not a risk worth taking for such a short term activity like a coal mine.

Sincerely,  
Julian Tertini

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