

Aaron Brown

From: Luke Fox [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 22 February 2019 10:30 AM
To: IPCN Enquiries Mailbox
Subject: Attention: David Coppers

Categories: Aaron

Good morning David,

I spoke yesterday with Aaron. He said you would be the best person to speak to in regards to my query.

My question relates to the Hume Coal Project.

Background:

I am aware there is a public meeting to be held next week in Moss Vale where I live. I will be in attendance for at least part of this.

The company representing POSCO has been, to my knowledge present in this community for nine years.

My concerns with the mine are not limited to the following but as I feel others have done a good job of identifying the environmental, water included, issues relating to the mine I want to better understand Hume Coal's *social* impact.

I posit that the social licence Hume Coal requires represents a clear and present danger to the approval of the mine but I can find little representation of this aspect of the issue in the response of the DPE or the questions asked of it by the IPC.

My presumption as to the importance of the social licence stems from my own research into mining industry trends and the actions of Hume Coal itself.

- They have strategically funnelled large sums of money into certain areas of the community. Recipients are often used in marketing efforts.
- They have maintained an active Facebook page and used it to misrepresent all community concerns as the actions of activists whom they conflate with 'Greenies'. They have maintained that Greenies want the lights to go off and for people to be without jobs. They have encouraged their supporters, from within the mining industry, to express anger and pejorative language towards 'activists', who are in fact simply residents. Their moderation of the page is almost exclusively limited to blocking those who oppose the mine. They actively encourage those who support it to express their views in very strong, often personal terms.

The net effect is a deliberate and conscious effort to divided the community.

Their efforts to raise anger and outrage has ramped up in anticipation of the pubic meeting to be held in Moss Vale. My guess is they hope to have angry coal industry fans present the appearance of disaffected local residents. This is something the IPC panel needs to be made aware of.

Full disclosure, I am an editorial cartoonist, comedy writer and advertising copywriter. I have maintained a parody version of the Hume Coal Facebook page for several years. It is my own personal effort to resist what I believe to be very bad project for this area.

This can be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/DontExHUMECOAL/>

The page pretends to be a coal mine project and mirrors posts from the Hume Coal page with a comedic slant to highlight Hume Coal's tenuous promises of jobs, frequent offers of monetary hand outs and of their attempts to demonise those who oppose the mine.

Hume Coal has blocked me, personally, from their Facebook page on the false pretence of my using obscene language. I asked a lot of technical questions and they did not like it.

My question:

Has the DPE and/or the IPC considered the efforts of Hume Coal to engender community division? Can you direct me to any evidence of same?

Thank you for your time in regards to this matter.

Luke.