



DEREK WHITE

OBJECT

Submission ID: 217580

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses)</i>
Location: New South Wales 2575	
Attachment: N/A	

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Dear Commissioners

I was part of the Coal Free Southern Highlands (CFSH) community group that opposed, for a variety of reasons, the development of a coal mine by Hume Coal near Berrima. Also, as a trained Adjudicator and Arbitrator, I value precedent in any contentious decisions. Therefore, I would like to bring to your attention the following findings by the IPC in that case.

Incompatibility with Local Social and Local Land Use:

The NSW Independent Planning Commission's refusal of the Hume Coal project highlighted incompatibility with local land uses, including agriculture, tourism, and residential areas. The Plasrefine proposal similarly conflicts with the character and aspirations of Moss Vale and the Wingecarribee Council, which focus on sustainable rural industries and community well-being. The approval of this project would negatively affect residents' way of life and property rights, fostering stress and social disruption as well as pose unacceptable risks to nearby rural activities. These negative impacts mirror the adverse social and land use effects identified in the Hume Coal decision.

Risks to Water Sources:

The Hume Coal proposal, located a short distance from this site, was refused partly due to unacceptable risks to groundwater and Sydney's drinking water catchment. Similarly, the Plasrefine facility's processes and its waste streams could potentially harm local aquifers and water sources, exacerbating concerns about water resource security in this sensitive area.

Stated Benefits

Despite the supposed benefits claimed by Hume Coal, independent analysis solicited by CFSH cast serious doubts about the reality of these. Similarly, while there has been no time and insufficient information for an independent economic assessment of the Plasrefine proposal, there are serious question marks about the commercial viability of such a low margin business in a complex commercial space, and hence the local benefits (if any) would be minimal and probably short term at best.

Mitigation Measures:

As for the Hume Coal Project, a large number of risk elements have been identified for the Plasrefine proposal. This is evidenced by the 60+ Issues and nearly 100 Mitigation Measures enumerated by the DPHI. There are many other risks and levels of risk being brought forward by the community as a whole. Surely this raises serious doubts about the efficacy of this proposal in its current location.

IPC Findings re Hume Coal:

The Commission ultimately finds that the stated benefits of the Project do not outweigh the adverse environmental, social and economic impacts, and its Statement of Reasons for Decisions reads - On the basis of the Material considered as a whole, the Commission has determined to refuse the Application. Also, it added The impacts of the Project cannot be reasonably and satisfactorily avoided, mitigated and managed through conditions .



New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

More details on their findings can be found here:

https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/news/2021/09/ipc-refuses-hume-coal-project?utm_source=chatgpt.com

On the above bases, I urge you to reject the recommendation of Department of Planning and stop its development.

Kind regards

Derek White

Mittagong NSW
