



COMMUNITY

BULLETIN

Hume Coal is committed to engaging with the community by providing information about the Project as it progresses.

As part of this process, Hume Coal has recently engaged with the community by holding a series of Community Information Sessions throughout the month of August at various locations around the Southern Highlands.

We received a lot of constructive feedback and queries about the proposal. Below are a few of the questions that were raised and our responses:



? DUST QUESTION

The dust generated from the mine site, during the three year construction period and the 20 years of operations to follow, is a major concern to the nearby residential areas of Berrima, New Berrima, Medway and beyond.

RESPONSE

We understand that dust is a concern for residents given what they may have experienced with other mine sites in the past, particularly open cut mines, however this is not what is being proposed by Hume Coal. To start, our project is underground, so dust emissions will be kept to an absolute minimum as a result. On top of this, we have strict measures in place to further minimise dust emissions, including using trains to transport the coal instead of trucks, which minimises dust as a lot of dust generated from mines comes from the undercarriage of trucks. We are also the first mine in Australia that will be covering train wagons, again minimising dust.

We have undertaken preliminary dust modelling, based on the full range of potential weather conditions in the area, and these results are available on our website. The next step as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, is to undertake more detailed dust modelling. These will be publically available and shared with the community when we complete the EIS mid next year.

Copies of our presentations, from our six community information sessions, have been uploaded to our website, www.humecoal.com.au, and are available to download.

Our priority is to ensure the project is undertaken in the most environmentally sensitive way possible. It will provide long-term careers for locals, while preserving and protecting the things that make this area special.

For more information, please contact the Hume Coal office on **(02) 48698200** or email info@humecoal.com.au

? MINING METHOD QUESTION (PINE FEATHER)

The mining method, Pine feather, and the system for emplacement of washery reject and coal fines material, are essentially untested and as such carry significant risks.

RESPONSE

Our proposed mining method is based on processes that are in operation across the world. We have chosen them because they are proven to minimise risk and have the lowest impact possible. The mine will be one of the lowest impact mines in Australia as a result. The Pine feather system is designed to prevent subsidence- or the sinking of the land – as it ensures there is enough mineral left in the ground to provide ongoing support and minimal impact to water.



? WATER QUESTION

We are concerned that the mining plan that has been revealed to date will have a much greater impact on the region's groundwater than Hume has revealed, and the emplacement system carries a high potential for contamination of a pristine aquifer system.

RESPONSE

There is no potential for contamination of the water table. It is simply not possible with the processes and strict regulations that are in place. We will emplace reject material, which is separated from the coal (rock and stone) back into the mine to help quickly restore groundwater levels as each void is partially backfilled directly after the mineral is extracted.

The material being returned (or emplaced) is the exact same material that was extracted, minus the coal. The process is monitored continuously to ensure a controlled environment in which the rock and stone are returned to the ground. It is a widely used practice in mining generally, however, it is relatively new to underground coal mining. It will also reduce groundwater inflows into the mine. This mine has been designed to minimise impact on water bores, and to protect the integrity of the groundwater system.

CAREER ADVISORS VISIT THE COMMUNITY OFFICE

On 13th August, Hume Coal participated in the inaugural Southern Highlands industry Information Tour. This tour has been initiated to provide high school, TAFE and university career advisors and VET/TAS Coordinators the opportunity to see first-hand how local organisations and sectors operate and what future career opportunities exist in the region.

Career paths and employment opportunities in mining were discussed, providing insight to attending advisors regarding future opportunities with Hume Coal, as our mining operations will create more than 300 local long term careers and filling these positions with local residents is a key priority. We very much enjoyed meeting our guests on the Tour and look forward to working with you in the future.