

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [NSW Productivity Feedback](#)  
**Subject:** Comments for IPC Review  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:26:33 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam

As an active participant in the IPC process for the approval or otherwise of the Hume Coal project near Berrima in the Southern Highlands, I would like to make the following comments:

- + The IPC is an important component of the major project approvals process in NSW and must not be discontinued;
- + Anything that reduces the independence of the IPC would be counterproductive as it would reintroduce community concerns over the potential bias re the final decisions;
- + I think it would be good if the Commissioners were able to call on independent experts to give opinions on particularly contentious matters (as they can in the legal and arbitration processes);
- + In the same vein, perhaps the Minister could second people with relevant expertise to sit on individual IPC panels so that the focus could be kept on key issues with knowledgeable input from the relevant Commissioners;
- + I think there needs to be a system in place that ensures a speedy conclusion to any particular determination – perhaps coupled with significant penalties for parties not meeting reasonable deadlines. The Hume Coal project is a classic example where the decision will still not be finalised 3 years after the lodgement of the EIS (not mention the +10 years that the local community has been on tenterhooks about this project!);
- + I find it hard to accept that GHG emissions from end uses can be excluded from the process just because there is a special interest lobby (Minerals Council) in the room. Even if the project replaces “dirty” coal with “cleaner” coal, the end result is a marketplace surplus of coal that lowers prices and encourages either increased consumption or end-use plant life extensions.

Kind regards

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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10