

Submission to Productivity Commissioner re IPC

We respond to a request by the Productivity Commissioner to submit our comments in a review of the Independent Planning Commission (IPC)
(Refer <http://productivity.nsw.gov.au/ipc-review>).

Battle for Berrima Inc is opposed to State Significant Projects 7171 & 7172 (Hume Coal). Our opposition has brought us in contact with the IPC, in particular our presentations to the February 2019 public hearings called and chaired by the IPC.

We make comment under the Terms of Reference published on the webpage referenced above, in particular item 1 and dot 3 of item 3.

The Independent Planning Commission performs, we consider, an essential role in the examination of major projects in NSW.

The report by the IPC on the Hume Coal projects was published after the February public hearings. The report is inconclusive and awaits comments from the proponent (Posco Steel).

We are disappointed with this circumstance as it was indicated at the public hearing that we could expect a decision within 2 to 3 months or April/May 2019. Current indications are that a decision will not be forthcoming until mid 2020. This is a blow out of some 800% (2 to 16 months) which in the commercial world would be regarded as absurd.

It appears to us that the members of the committee have approached their role with too much detail, examining engineering aspects that, by their nature, have multiple solutions all with individual pros and cons.

We consider that had the committee approached their role from in a judicial sense, the decision would have been reached in a reasonable time.

For example the evidence of the significant detrimental effect on the aquifer and the poor evidence presented by the proponent for the planned method of disposal of spoil are just two major aspects that would have decided against the project.

End of submission

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