

Don't Let Bickham Kill the Upper Hunter

8 FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BICKHAM

1. Bickham proposes to develop an open cut coal mine approximately 12 kilometres south-east of Murrurundi in **DIRECT PROXIMITY** to the **Pages River** and **Kingdon Ponds**.
2. Bickham recently submitted their Water Study which is one of the final steps in determining whether the mine will get the go ahead by the NSW Planning Department.
3. The safety of local jobs and the long-term future of townships in Gundy, Scone and Aberdeen **IS** under threat.
4. Bickham has *limited resources* and a *limited lifespan* of 25 years. It threatens the existing industries in the Upper Hunter - equine, agriculture, cattle grazing, dairying, tourism.
5. These industries create far more jobs and money for our local communities than this mine ever will.
6. Based on Bickham's own study this coal mine will **extract 2 million litres of groundwater A DAY at its peak**. It will take 105 years for the Pages River to return to normal.
7. Bickham says they will compensate farmers located downstream for loss of water. Do they really expect us to believe that a mine this small, that does this much damage for 105 years, will be able to provide enough compensation to our community to keep it alive?
8. The industries that have made the Upper Hunter the great place it is today have an infinitely longer lifespan than a 25 year mine. If these industries are forced out due to lack of water, contaminated water or the effect of coal pollution, what will be left for the local towns, their workers and families, and the service industries that support them – not just when they leave – but after the mine closes and takes its proposed 100 direct jobs with it?

Yes, mining and agriculture have a place in the Hunter but we cannot risk the stability of our water systems that support industries that have built the Upper Hunter for a barely viable mine.

The true measure of success of planning in the Hunter will be what remains (socially, economically and environmentally) AFTER Bickham coal.

The threat proposed by Bickham to existing and remaining industry is disproportionate to any economic benefit from Bickham

**Talk to your neighbours! Talk to local businesses! Get concerned!
We must say NO to Bickham!**

**Get involved and show your support. Register now at our Facebook Group
'Living in the Upper Hunter'**