

Dear sir

As I travel the Picton road daily I can assure you that only at most 10% of the freight could be carried by rail. The other 90% is Coles, Woolworths, bricks, fuel, general freight, quarry products, furniture, steel and the list goes on. I doubt anyone who suggests that the rail line will relieve traffic on Picton road has ever spent a day checking the variety of freight.

I say build a westbound Picton road from the top of Mt. Ousley to the Hume with any spare money to save 100 lives over the next 20 years and save wasting any more money patching up the existing road.

In my opinion it is not that there is no rail line that mining has not taken place below the Hume but the fact that there needs to be a 45 degree angle from the Hume to the seam 500m below so that means most of that coal would be quarantined. I realise that Tahmoor, Illawarra coal and NE1 say with new mining techniques they can take the lot without cracking Pheasants nest bridge or the Hume but if they were so confident how come Metropolitan decided not to mine under the dam?

The contractors would make just as much money building a westbound Picton road and the benefit would be realised in a couple of years rather than build a rail line that does not go to the farms for wheat or dealers with cars.

Regards Eddy Barnett