



Professor Mary O'Kane  
Chair, Independent Planning Commission

to be delivered by hand

Dear Professor O'Kane

We are writing to appeal to you to take up the opportunity created by the NSW Land and Environment Court to stop the coal mine that threatens to tear up farmland, drain aquifers and despoil the beauty of the Bylong Valley, increasing New South Wales' contribution to climate change in the process.

In February this year the NSW Land and Environment Court for the first time included the contribution a coal mine would make to climate change among the reasons for refusing consent to the Rocky Hill coal mine near Gloucester. The Bylong Coal Project may be the first new coal mine determined since Rocky Hill was rejected.

Burning the coal mined from Bylong would create five times the volume of greenhouse pollution that Rocky Hill would have created. And like Rocky Hill, there are environmental and social impacts from the Bylong coal project that are also grounds for its refusal.

New South Wales has committed to the Paris climate change agreement and its goal of preventing 2 degrees of global warming and striving to avoid 1.5 degrees of warming. Achieving these goals will mean steep reductions in coal use worldwide, including in Australia and South Korea. Achieving these goals will require all institutions and decision makers to find the part that they can play.

The Commission's part in this effort is to refuse the Bylong coal project.

We've been stripped of our right to appeal the Commission's decision in Court, so are relying on the Commission to do the right thing for our shared future.

Community groups including Bylong Valley Protection Alliance and Lock the Gate have written to the Commission seeking assurance it will consider the Bylong coal project in the light of the Rocky Hill judgement and against an accurate appraisal of aquifer depletion the mine will cause.

The Commission's own review identified several matters requiring further consideration, including Aboriginal cultural heritage, but no further information has been provided.

Lock the Gate and Bylong Valley Protection Alliance have written numerous letters to the Commission seeking assurances that these matters will be properly addressed PRIOR to a determination on the project, but have not received confirmation in the affirmative.



Therefore, the groups signed up to this letter, are here today to seek a clear and firm commitment that the IPC will:

1. Consider the Bylong coal project in the light of the Rocky Hill judgement and the global carbon budget for reaching the Paris climate agreement goals
2. Obtain an accurate appraisal of aquifer depletion the mine will cause and the effect of this depletion on the long-term viability of water supply works on iconic Tarwyn Park
3. Ensure it has complete information on all the matters for further assessment identified by the Commission in its review of this project, especially in relation to full assessment of impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration

Signed

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**This letter is endorsed by:**

1. Bylong Valley Protection Alliance
2. Lock the Gate Alliance
3. NSW Nature Conservation Council
4. Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC)
5. Doctors for the Environment Australia
6. Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch
7. Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle
8. Stop Adani Coogee
9. Stop Adani Bondi
10. Eastern Suburbs Coal and Gas Watch
11. Sydney Knitting Nannas and Friends
12. Stop Adani Redfern
13. Climate Justice Collective
14. Earlwood Environment League
15. Oatley Flora and Fauna