

Good afternoon members of the IPC panel and members of the public.

My name is Debbie Reid, I grew up in St. Marys and relocated to Kandos in 2005. I am here today to speak to you about my support of Kepco's proposed coal mine in Bylong.


I have 3 children; aged 19, 14 and 13. All three attended local schools in Kandos. My eldest daughter played netball for the local association up until 2010. My youngest played only for 1 year as there were no teams registered in 2011. I played, coached and was also secretary for the association until the end.

I was also secretary for Kandos Rylstone Street Machine Club for 2 years. I was a radio presenter for the community radio KRRFM for 12 months. And I have just put my hand up to be secretary for Kandos Rylstone Little Athletics so they didn't shut. were able to carry on. Kandos has been a great place to raise my kids and I always thought when I first moved here there would be career opportunities for them here as well as there were a few industries operating. That was until 2011 when the local Cement Australia plant was closed down which was ultimately due to the governments climate change policy. All this meant was Australia would now be importing cement instead of utilizing our own resources. This was the first blow to Kandos.

unfortunately wasn't viable due to us living in Kandos. A year later he secured a position at Moolarben Coal and is still employed there, however he has to travel a great distance to and from work each day.

Both my partner and I fully support the Kepco project in Bylong as we are hoping he can obtain employment there, which would take approximately 1 hour off his travelling time daily.

My partner and I have visited the site of the proposed mine in Bylong and I was pleasantly surprised at how far back its going to be and not visible from the main road. Charbon mine was 5 minutes from our house and we never had any issues with it, actually I never knew exactly where it was until I went for a drive on the back roads.



If the Bylong Project goes ahead, it will bring more families back to the area and once again we will be able to start up netball teams as well as junior rugby league.

Kandos Rylstone was a great community when I first moved here but due to the decline in industry it is just a shell of what it once was.

Many local residents have signed the petition that was mentioned earlier but sadly a lot of people were concerned about attending and facing grief from the protestors that have been bused in from both Newcastle and Sydney. I ask that when making your decision that you take into

Just a few years later Centennial Coal announced they would be shutting down their underground mine at Charbon on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2014 and the open cut, which was contracted to ~~a local company~~ Big Rim, would also cease operation in 2015. Then there was nothing for most of the workforce in the local area.

All 3 of these companies donated to numerous charities and sporting organizations. Kepeco have sponsored a number of community organizations and events in our two towns including: the Rylstone Street Feast annually since 2011, Rylstone Kandos Men's Shed annually since 2012, Kandos High School, Kandos Public School, Community Charity shop Kandos, Rylstone Kandos Show Society annually since 2014, Rylstone Health One, Rylstone Public School P & C, Rylstone Pony Club, Rotary Club of Rylstone Kandos, Volunteer Rescue Association, Rylstone RFS, Kandos Club, Henbury Club, CWA Kandos, Cudgegong Country Ball, PCYC Youth Moto Workshops in Kandos, and have also supported Kids and Carers who are building a Community House.

Data from the 2011 and 2016 shows that the highest employment in the area was mining, 2006 doesn't list what sections. It also shows for Kandos that in 2006 54.4% of people employed were employed full time dropping to 51.4% in the 2011 Census and again dropping to 42.7% in 2016. Census 2006 shows that the median age was 44 years, then 45 in 2011 and a massive increase to 52 in 2016.

My partner who was 1 of the employees who was employed at Big Rim was offered an opportunity at Mt.Arthur Coal at Muswellbrook but that

account the people that this mine is actually going to directly affect, their livelihood and incomes.

~~many of the people that only rely on solar or wind~~

Our town needs this mine to go ahead, we need the employment and we need the families to move back.

Thank you for your time.

Since Charbon open cut, government have put strict conditions on rehab of the area. Kepco have their strategies in place that this <sup>will be</sup> done during the as they progress. I did a tour of one of mines at mudgee and in all honesty I wasn't able to distinguish which areas had been mined due to the rehab they had done. Obviously nobody has done a flyer over the charbon mine otherwise they would have seen the rehab being completed there.