



Meteor Estates Pty Ltd (ACN 145 717 004)
PO Box R864
Royal Exchange NSW 1225

14 November 2018

Mr G Kirkby – Panel Chair Bylong Coal Project
Independent Planning Commission
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney, NSW 2000,
By Email: ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au.

RE: Bylong Coal Project (SSD 14_6367)

Dear Mr Kirkby,

As a representative from Meteor Estates Pty Ltd, owners of the Murrumbo property at 9090 Bylong Valley Way, Bylong NSW 2849, we wish to bring the following to the attention of the Independent Planning Commission (IPC).

Meteor Estates has made submissions in regard to this project since 2015.

As you may know, the Murrumbo property is a large-scale agricultural holding of 7,300 acres, which is located less than 2 km east of the Bylong Coal Project boundary. The Murrumbo property is a significant agricultural enterprise.

Our main focus with the Bylong Coal Project is the potential impacts on groundwater supplies that are critical to our agricultural property.

The Murrumbo property is located in a volcanic crater which is characterised by volcanic intrusives and alluvial material.

There are two important wells on the property, one in a location called Springfield on the west of the property and the other an artesian well located further to the east.

These two wells are highly productive and have been the sole source of water for our property during the recent drought.

Although we have a licence to extract water from the Goulburn River, due to a flood some years ago the pipeline from the river was washed out, and combined with very high electricity prices, means that we have not extracted water from the Goulburn River for at least 3 years.

Hence we rely on the "Springfield Bore" and the "Artesian well". We would not have purchased (and could not effectively operate) the property in the absence of these excellent quality, highly productive water sources. During the recent/current intense drought there has been no reduction in the water level or productivity of these, nor any increase in salinity or other decline or change in water quality. These sources are the sole suppliers of water to our cattle troughs.

By way of summary of our discussions with Kepco;

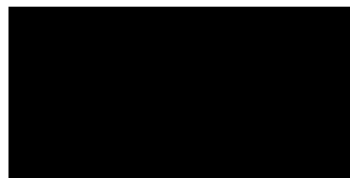
- 1) The EIS contained a cross-section in Figure 7.21 of the AGE report which shows depressurisation in the Triassic intrusions located at the Murrumbo property. Also, our wells on our property did not seem to be included in the groundwater model.
- 2) We naturally approached Kepco's representatives, Worley Parsons (WP). WP arranged to visit Murrumbo with the water specialists, Australian Groundwater and Environmental Consultants (AGE) in early 2016 to inspect our bores.
- 3) In early 2016, we attended the offices of WP at which AGE provided a technical presentation explaining that Figure 7.21 was 'figurative' and their detailed modelling demonstrated that there was low risk to our bores.
- 4) In August 2018, another site visit took place with Kepco's project team to discuss monitoring the bores with continuous loggers and we received a proposed "Compensatory Water Supply Agreement" (CWSA).

Naturally the CWSA is a significant agreement but it is still under negotiation.

Conclusion

Meteor Estates maintains its objection to the Bylong Coal Project purely on the basis of concerns about impacted water sources unless/until an agreement between Meteor Estates and Kepco is reached and/or appropriate consent conditions which meet with the approval of Meteor Estates are incorporated into any consent.

Yours sincerely



Simon Keyser
Director – Meteor Estates Pty Ltd
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