

Good afternoon. My name is Peter Endacott. I operate a small carpentry and building maintenance business in the district.

We have heard that the Bylong Project will provide jobs for the district. Well, it is already doing so for myself and my local crew. I have worked continuously for KEPCO for nearly 3 years and there is potentially plenty to do in my line of work if the Project is approved. At times KEPCO has been pessimistic about progress and my future work prospects have looked quite short. As KEPCO has been encouraged that the Project will proceed, my workload has rapidly grown. I have prospects of growing my local crew if the Project is approved. As well as employing Builders and Carpenters, there is the potential to employ young trainees from the local area and pass on the skills and knowledge to them. I also bring in local Electricians, Plumbers and other specialists contractors as necessary.

KEPCO has had us working on a large number of houses, but most of my work has been on local icons such as Bylong Station, Bylong General Store and Tarwyn Park.

For most people, it would be hard to imagine just what poor shape Tarwyn Park homestead was in. Even I had no idea until I started work. The grand external appearance is supported on failing foundations and most of the internal structure is falling apart. It contained a large amount of asbestos, which had to be dealt with, the electrical wiring was dangerous. The sewerage system was inadequate, it hadn't been maintained for a long time until I was given access when KEPCO took possession. Some of you will have seen yesterday that many of these failings have been addressed but the repair and restoration process has a long way to go.

As a Carpenter, I enjoy challenges and I appreciate being able to do quality works. That has been KEPCO's position. If we are going to do it, we are going to do it right.

If you appreciate Tarwyn Park, back the Project. If you believe that reinvestment in Bylong General Store is a good thing, back the Project. The same goes for substantial works on lots of other houses in the district. If the Project proceeds, I expect to bring these houses up to a high standard and there will be homes for people to come back to the valley. If that opportunity arises, I will be employing locals for the trades and labour skills necessary.

I don't drive big trucks and I don't do mining things but I get to repair and restore important local landmarks, in a quality way and to pass on my skills to my local team. I understand that the last boom in Bylong was when the rail was being built and workers were passing through. How much better when the work is permanent and the workers can live in the houses that we have brought up to KEPCO's high standard.

I am local. I support the Project. Thank you.