

IPC HEARING for Kepco Bylong Coal Project

Shaun Mace – Maceco Engineering

Mr Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

- I am the Director of Maceco Engineering and we are located between the towns of Rylstone & Kandos. We have a large workshop which caters from light to heavy industry.
- I would like to state that I am in full support of the Bylong Coal Project proposal by Kepco.
- The Rylstone district has been in economic decline since November 2008 when the Global Financial Crisis hit. This was followed by the announcement from Cement Australia, in July 2011 that their Kandos plant would be closed, which it did in September of 2011. More recently, in 2015, the mine at Charbon operated by Centennial Coal has closed. Sibelco, a multinational producer of lime products was a major player in the area, however, have recently closed their Excelsior Quarry and Tallawang Magnetite Mine.
- Now, I stated some 18 months ago at the PAC hearing that I had it on very good authority that Sibelco's Lime Processing Plant at Charbon would likely close in the next 12-18 months. That has now happened with their announcement of closure in the past few weeks, they are in the process of running out current stocks and have laid off almost all of their workers.
- Couple to this the decline of the wider mining economy over the last few years, and I can say that it has been extremely tough going for us at Maceco Engineering, and every other business in the area.
- We simply can't survive on agriculture and tourism alone.
- Some years ago, we employed 15 full time tradesmen as well as part time and casual workers. Today, we are down to 3 full time employees and only casuals as required. All, without exception, of the employees we have had to let go have left the area to secure work. In our busier times it is really difficult to find local trades as the pool is non-existent.

- Make no mistake, all of us in the local business community are screaming out for big businesses such as KEPCO BYLONG to come to our area. In my opinion and experience we now require it to happen.
- Tourism is great but only projects such as this can provide the base load of employment opportunities that will allow our area to grow and prosper.
- The youth of our community need to have more employment choices to keep them here and to give them viable options to return once they have completed their tertiary studies.
- KEPCO BYLONG have already shown a sustained commitment to the local community.
- For the sake of our community, we must consider the serious negative economic and social impacts on our region if this project does not go ahead.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Shaun Mace

As I mentioned earlier with all of the big business closures, almost all of these working people have had to either leave the area for work or add at least an hour of travel to each end of their workday if they are lucky enough to find a job in the Mudgee area.