



## Ryde - Hunter's Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society

Member of Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.



Jade Hoskins  
The Planning Assessment Commission.  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth St, Sydney NSW 2000

15 May 2017

Dear Ms Hoskins,

We write to object strenuously to the proposal by Kepco Bylong Australia Pty Ltd to construct and operate an open cut and underground coal mine for a period of 25 years in the scenic Bylong Valley.

We are a local conservation group established over 50 years ago which aims to preserve important biodiversity on which human life depends. We consider the biggest threat to our native flora and fauna to be the impacts of a changing climate. These impacts are well predicted. However, some impacts are unknown and the precautionary principle must be applied in the decision making regard the approval of new coal mines.

Carbon pollution is affecting human health and resulting in increased costs of the health care budget. The direct impact of coal mines and related transport and extraction activities degrades the quality of life in nearby local communities. New coal mines are unacceptable socially and economically at a time when the cost of renewable energy production is reducing and its efficiency increases.

The Bylong Coal Project will have devastating impacts. It will:

- cause large and permanent destruction of good agricultural lands;
- destroy for ever large areas of native vegetation;
- reduce opportunities for tourism in the iconic Bylong Valley, sections of the road of which are considered one of the best drives in NSW;
- reduce opportunities for the profitable horse breeding industry;
- destroy significant Aboriginal sites in the heritage listed valley.

The demands for water in the coal mining industry will compromise ground and surface water supply for everyone in the valley. Stream flows will be reduced and ground water supply unlikely to recover. Drought times already severely affect this area and the thirsty coal mining industry will make this worse during droughts.

Our members urge that PAC fully considers the known devastating impacts that this project will have on the Bylong Valley and rejects this project.

Yours sincerely,  
Cathy Merchant  
RHHFFPS Committee Member