Attn NSW IPC.

I oppose the Bylong Coal Project for the following reasons;

The need to transition to renewable energy is well documented. Approving further coal mines is the wrong direction for Australia to head in if we are to reduce the impact of climate change. Rather than opening up new fossil fuel industries, Australia desperately needs to find cleaner alternatives. Opening up new coal mines will just make it harder for this transition to occur. It is only in the last couple of weeks, that a report issued by 91 United Nations Climate Scientists outlining the urgency to act on climate change.

The proposed mine site is an area of natural beauty. It is immoral to convert this beautiful landscape into an open cut coal mine, which I have read will only be operational for 23 years. This is incredibly short sighted, that Australians from this day onwards should be robbed of such a beautiful area so a coal mine can operate for 23 years. Once the coal is all dug up and burnt into the atmosphere, the damage from this mine will last forever. Attached is link outlining the beauty of the area.

http://www.bylongvalleyway.com.au/

In 2018, the entire state of New South Wales is in drought. Coal mining is extremely water intensive and therefore it is negligent to open a new coal mine in the Hunter, which will increase drought and the severity of bush fires.

There are jobs in the tourism and viticulture industries at risk due to the proposed coal mine.

The health risk associated with open cut coal mines are well documented. Towns in the Hunter Valley have the highest rates of respiratory illness in the country. It is completely unfair that people who live in the vicinity of these mines have to put up with this level of air pollution.

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5627288/try-breathing-this-doctors-act-on-hunter-air-quality-crisis/>

<https://www.envirojustice.org.au/extraordinary-air-pollution-for-hunter-valley-the-australian/>

In summary, I cannot think of one good reason for this project to be approved apart from the NSW government wanting the royalties from the coal that is exported. The question you need to decide is; what price do you put on a safe healthy environment and saving areas of natural beauty for all Australians to enjoy?

Please do the right thing, put Australians first and the fossil fuel industry second and oppose the Bylong Coal Project.

Regards.

Leigh Furner.