

The IPPC report is surely reason enough to stop opening new coal mines in NSW. It is reckless in the extreme to consider this proposal without including the long - term consequences for climate change, in any decision-making process. Australia must make every effort to meet our Paris Agreement. This mine proceeding would be counter to the commitment our government made to rein in our CO2 emissions.

Another coal mine will certainly contribute to intergenerational theft – by delivering a legacy of environmental destruction, that will eventually render the planet uninhabitable for future generations. This should be the prime consideration here when considering the cumulative effect of all the coal mines already operating in NSW. (see attachment : Coal Projects in NSW)

To open this KEPCO mine in the beautiful Bylong Valley is environmental vandalism. It's impact on groundwater will be impossible to accurately determine, however its impact on farming will be only too evident. A fertile farming region should not be subservient to an obsolete and poisonous mining operation. Food security and water security, in this driest of continents, must trump coal mining.

The Bylong Valley has been a stalwart provider of drought fodder and relies on adequate water. This mine threatens the reliability of the water supply here. We are facing uncertainty as our climate changes, so water sources must be guaranteed protection. If this is not the case, then our environment protection laws are clearly inadequate to the task.

As we have seen elsewhere, mine rehabilitation is very rarely concluded satisfactorily, as used and depleted mines are often sold on to shell companies, without the resources to adequately restore the site. Australia is littered with polluted old mining holes, left in a deplorable state, often full of toxic debris and water. This is not good enough. Bylong doesn't deserve this type of outcome and mining companies are not to be trusted.

The threat to farming, groundwater and the natural heritage values do not justify proceeding with this mine project. The risks are too great. It would be considered a very poor result if the government approves this mine. The majority of Australians are strongly opposed to more coal mining and have expressed strong support for the development of renewable energy instead. In a democracy, we expect the will of the people to be heeded.

The insidious influence of fossil fuel corporate donations to political parties has reached a stage where the community is highly cynical about the decisions being made purely for corporate benefits. The government must be mindful that this will be seen as evidence of the stranglehold the fossil fuel industry has over the government, should the mine proceed.

Therefore I urge the Independent Planning Commission to demonstrate your independence and good sense, by rejecting this destructive mine in the beautiful Bylong Valley. It is essential that we phase out coal mining and consider our future wisely.

Yours sincerely,  
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