As a veterinarian, I first started work in the Bylong Valley in 1980. My work involved horses and cattle. A more productive valley is difficult to imagine. At the time there were approximately 300 brood mares. Today there are none. There were a dozen stallions. Today, none. Cattle, both commercial and stud stock, thrived, with enormous annual turnover of beef. The valley is now a hollow and distant memory of those wonderful times. The proposed mine has successfully divided a community which prided itself on inclusiveness, hard work and the promise of a secure future on the land.

If we can stop this environmental bastardry I believe the life, energy and optimism that once existed in the community of the valley will be rapidly restored.