

Comment regarding the development of the Bylong coal project

I write in support of the development of the by long coal project. As the inaugural Director of the Australian Centre for Sustainable Mining Practices or ACSMP, I worked closely with the developer of the project, KEPCO, and we provided significant training to its officers particularly in mining law, mining practices, mine closure, rehabilitation practices and other aspects of sustainability. I found the company an exceptional corporate citizen and a model for other international companies wishing to invest in this State. However, year by year I noticed the growing frustration of senior management as they dealt with not only the interminable bureaucratic processes but also what appeared to be an unobtainable social licence to operate in NSW.

It may not be politically or socially savvy to be seen to be supporting coal at this point in time but the facts are that globally Australian coal is increasing in demand, and both coal prices and share prices continue to rise. China and India as well as other Asian economies continue to build thermal power stations with the former constructing the equivalent of 85 power stations the size of Victoria's Yallourn.

This project is essential to the future economic well-being of the State of New South Wales as it will provide:

- 650 jobs during initial construction
- 450 jobs during operations
- A boost to employment in local businesses that will supply the mine
- An economic boost for the Mudgee region
- Jobs and investment for the local communities of Kandos and Rylstone
- Around \$300 million in royalty payments to the NSW Government to help pay for schools, hospitals and roads.

A rejection of this development application will be a signal to future investors that New South Wales is not the place to invest in resources.