

I was born in bylong

Jeffrey Braithwaite. I've spent over 20 years. Living bylong. Working on our family farm for 15 yrs. As said previously Braithwaite Pastoral Company is the largest privately owned Land lease in bylong. Country there is about 60 percent residents. in bylong 15 are under 18 of those children. 14 are 10 yrs and under. There are also only 15 of these 60 residents are actual Land owners the rest are ~~work~~ employees of Farms or mining in bylong. ~~So I hope~~

there are over 4000 people in the Rydstone/Kandos region that are almost Banking on the project going ahead. Many of the parent that I meet at Rydstone school Functions always me when is the going ahead. & all i can say is what the paperwork is finished. Bylong school was closed down, this was because of Kepco purchasing large tract of Land, that provided the children for this school. Also though this school has been in a downward spiral to closure. Look Back to the 1970-80's, there was upwards of 30 children consistently. in its final demise there was 5-6. Water is the source of life ~~we can live without~~ we carry between 1100-1800 head. cattle on Braithwaite Pastoral Co. Depending on time of year and conditions. we source all of our water for these cattle from underground aquifers, approximately 70 water troughs many tanks and kms of poly pipe. we also have 35 Dams on our property But just do look back not so

Long ago all bar 2 of these Dams were Dry.

the 2 that were left, one is spring fed the other we pump in to. So water is the only thing

I see that is prohibitive to ~~over~~ Braithwaite Pastoral co. water sharing plan is the only way a good coal mines can co exist in bylong.

I spent my schooling years in muswellbrook a massive coal mining Hub. so I know what goes on in a mine and its effects to communities. I also own 4 properties in Muswellbrook and are feeling the effects of the current down turn. But this is set to pick up if Kerpco and ~~the~~ ~~plant~~ more so not pleasant.

I'm also Deputy Fire capant of our local Bush Fire brigade and President of the Bylong Mall committee. Member numbers have absolutely dwindled.

Since Kerpco came to town. As two main properties. Kerpco ~~Bought~~ ~~out~~ purchased. provided ~~the~~ much of work force for these two organisations. I also believe time and effort.

that in time the mine coming to Bylong it will eventually freeze their amount of people. One of our neighbouring properties has already been split up and sold and in time once the mine goes ahead people will live permitly on these blocks. many people knock the coal in question, but when you look at it even the train line is for it. ~~the~~ rail line is almost all down hill to newcastle port bar the slight rise

at Wilkingham near Singleton. Unlike the mine of  
NSW North West of Boggabri/gunnedah regions where  
it is an uphill battle to get Newcastleport:

I'm very lucky. I get to see a lot of this great country,  
~~spend~~ and have travelled many kms around, NSW. I hope  
the coal mine goes ahead so that our region doesn't

die ~~or~~ otherwise Rydstane and Kandos will be come  
the ghost ~~town~~ town that Baredman ~~is the~~ <sup>and many</sup>  
other small towns in the state already are. Towns like  
Baredman who would want to invest in them. The bones  
have been sucked out of them due to people moving to the coast.  
Don't let this happen to Rydstane/Kandos.