

Good morning ladies and gentlemen and members of the planning and assessment commission

- Hi to all present and thanks for the opportunity and the time to speak in support of the Bylong coal project
- Obviously as you will soon workout that I am and still do have a passion for the valley itself but also with the industry that I work within, the coal industry
- I Come from a long line of coal miners as my father and grandfather also served the industry way back in the early 1900s
- I first myself started in the industry in 1975 for BHP in the illawarra region
- The industry has given my family and I a world of opportunities one of which was to purchase a little piece of this glorious country in the Bylong valley itself and the only regret I have of that is I didn't get to buy bigger.
- I started travelling through the valley in 1999 when I worked for xstrata coal and I always said I would love to have a place here whenever the right place became available which I did acquire Nullabah down the southern end of the valley 2 years ago
- i of all people who have seen both sides, both mining and the picturesque beauty of the valley would hate to see it spoilt. And would do everything within our capabilities to ensure that it is protected.
- Benefits to be gained from the mines approval will be ongoing for the life of the project
- The support that has been given to local community groups from all the companies I have worked for is immeasurable from the support given to sporting groups charities schools and local projects
- I cant see why this would be any different from the operators of Bylong coal
- As I said before I have been in the industry for many years and I have worked through many changes in the operations for all the employers have worked for
- The coal mining industry is one of the most heavily regulated industries in the country, environmentally, safety, engineering you name it
- Notable Changes which have taken place within the mining industry are as follows

Notable changes within the industry for additional controls

1. Environmental laws such as non disturbance of specific areas
2. Surface rehabilitation requirements
3. Discharge licenses
4. water usage licenses
5. Independent site monitoring
6. Computerised monitoring systems
7. Transport regulations
8. OHS Laws
9. Equal opportunity laws
10. Mining design guidelines
11. Targeted inspections from the relevant departments
12. Operational management plans
13. Active compliance checks

I also realise that we don't live in a perfect world but I would stand by the word of all interested parties, stakeholders and the local people to ensure with all the right tools and equipment that the mine will do everything within its power to minimise manage and control issues  
On a closing note some of the local communities that have been impacted deeply with the closure of numerous assets in the district  
Lithgow ,Wallerawang, Kandos, Rhyllstone, Portland

From the closures of

Kandos cement , Charbon colliery ,Baalbone colliery ,Wallerawang power station ,Angus place colliery just to name a few – Let us not forget the business community has also suffered for that reason also - from Lithgow to Rhyllstone which has driven away lots of people family and friends, and for that reason - I urge you all to consider the future of all your families friends and the people who have suffered from these closures and let them have an equal opportunity to survive and thrive from the resource that this project will bring and maybe even bring some of these people home.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my views and opinions