



Support for the Kepco Bylong Valley Coal Project

Good morning/afternoon.

My name is Chris Dickson and I am here to speak on behalf of Forsythes Recruitment in support for the Bylong Valley Coal Project.

I have been employed in the recruitment sector now for some 12 years and in and around the NSW Coal Mining Industry for close to 20 years. I have witnessed firsthand what's on offer when the sector is booming and also what's not on offer when the sector slows. In recent years we have seen heavy job losses and a reduction in the economic viability of regional centres such as Singleton, Muswellbrook and Lake Macquarie on the back of mine closures and reductions in output.

Although there have been some recent increases in activity in the Mining Services Sector the industry needs new developments to continue to inject the much needed jobs, job security and overall value adding that projects such as Bylong Valley Coal can and will add if approved.

This project will have some 650 construction jobs and 470 operational jobs with the project estimated to inject annually \$624 million directly and indirectly into the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA.

\$72 Million annually in direct and indirect "LOCAL", yes local household income being spent largely in the immediate region of Bylong and the surrounding townships. This cannot be ignored. The project is committed to employing locals that live in the immediate area and who will spend their money on local products and produce and send their children to local schools and will no doubt provide meaningful jobs by way of apprenticeships and traineeships for those school leavers for many years. Real job prospects on their doorstep. No longer will they need move out of the region to gain employment.

This project through its delivery partners will engage with the Local Schools, the Local Community and Local businesses providing a bright future, strength in the economy and value to local businesses they haven't seen before and this will continue to be the case for 25 years. This is a massive investment in the longevity of this region and a true WIN/WIN for all involved.

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Forsythes currently service a number of business who are not only based here but supply directly to this region and those businesses will see a much needed up lift in business when this project is under construction and ongoing when it's operational with the benefits of this being many and varied but most importantly the security of employment that goes along with this.

This project not only secures jobs it also secures the economy of this region. The surrounding villages and townships stand to benefit greatly from this project. Numbers of students in schools will lift and it will create long term job prospects for school leavers, the greater population will increase due the project standing firm on the need to employ local people which in turn will bring more commerce to town making the region an attractive place for families to settle all on the back of the opportunities provided the Bylong Valley Coal Project.

Thank you for listening.

Yours Truly

Chris Dickson
State Manager – Forsythes Recruitment

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