

Mr Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

- I am the owner/Director of Maceco engineering which is based at Rylstone
- I would like to state that I am in full support of the report prepared by the DP & E
- The Rylstone district has been in economic decline since November 2008 when the Global Financial Crisis hit. This was followed by the announcement from Cement Australia, in July 2011, that their Kandos plant would be closed. More recently, the mine at Charbon, operated by Centennial Coal has closed. Sibelco, a multinational producer of lime products is/was a major player in the area, however, have recently closed their Excelsior Quarry and Tallawang Magnetite Mine and I have it on very good authority, not rumour, that its Charbon Lime Processing Plant will be closed in the next 12-18 months, indeed, their kilns have already been de-commissioned
- Couple this to the decline of the wider mining economy over the last few years, I can say that it has been extremely tough going for us at Maceco Engineering, and every other business in the area.
- We simply can't survive on agriculture and tourism alone
- Some years ago, Maceco employed 15 full time tradesmen. Today, we are down to 3 full time employees and only casuals as required. All of the employees we have had to let go have left the area to secure work.
- Local businesses & the community are screaming out for big business, like KEPCO BYLONG to come to our area.
- Only projects such as this can provide the base load of employment opportunities that will allow our area to grow and prosper.
- The youth of our community need to have employment opportunities to keep them here and to give them the chance of returning once they have completed their tertiary studies.
- KEPCO BYLONG have already shown their commitment to the local community.
- For the sake of our community, we must commit to this project.

Thank you for your time.