

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PAC Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Submission on The Bylong Coal Project
Date: Thursday, 18 May 2017 9:34:52 PM

From: Denis Rothwell

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I object to the Bylong coal project for the following reasons;

This project is proposed in an area of productive agricultural land too valuable to lose to mining. It will cause the loss of 319 hectares of agricultural land and just under 700 hectares of land that is mapped as part of the equine critical industry cluster. These lands should be made off limits to any form of mining. Allowing mining on productive agricultural land and land designated for equine critical industry cluster establishes a very questionable precedent of mining being more important than sustainable long term agricultural enterprises.

Not only will this large area of land be lost, but the proponent, Kepco, controls nearly half the available water in the Bylong River and intends to take this water from irrigated agriculture and use it for open cut mining. This means that 440 hectares of land that is currently used for irrigated agriculture will no longer be productive.

This is the worst ever impact on valuable agricultural land and should not be allowed.

Department of Primary Industries (DPI) analysis shows that the volume of water proposed to be drawn from the alluvial aquifer could exceed its ability to recharge, leading to depletion of groundwater. Even Kepco has agreed that there may be a much reduced availability of groundwater for agriculture. In some places, the drawdown of the alluvial aquifer exceeds 10 metres. DPI have expressed concern that there may not be enough water to continue mining under dry conditions and that bores in the vicinity may run dry.

This impact is a huge burden for local landholders and will inevitably cause loss of income, possibly loss of water and huge social impact.

Wiradjuri cultural heritage, already significantly impacted, will be further impacted by this mine.

The mine will remove 180 hectares of native habitat for the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater. How far can we push this species before they disappear? This area is recognised as being critical to the survival of this species and should not be destroyed.

A much larger volume of traffic including heavy mine vehicles is proposed to travel through Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve and Wollar village between Bylong and Mudgee. Road conditions are quite poor on this popular tourist road so safety and social amenity in the vicinity of this road will be severely impacted.

For the above reasons, this mine should not be allowed to proceed. It should not be given precedence over the existing land uses and local society.

Please delete my previous incomplete submission and replace it with this submission.

Denis Rothwell