

Denise Williams



I am objecting to the Bylong mine being approved. I live in the Wollar district of the Mid-Western Regional council, around 30kms from Bylong and 50kms from Mudgee. As it stands now the road which I travel on to get to Mudgee, main road 208, is in so poor condition that if a mine is approved in Bylong and all the mine traffic uses it there will be fatalities, human and wildlife.

Main road 208 the Wollar Road as it is known from Bylong, meanders along the river side and once past Wollar goes through the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve before dropping into Coolyal and then on into Mudgee. From Bylong to Wollar the road is having a face lift, but the road from Wollar to Mudgee through the Munghorn Gap this is a very narrow and very windy road with hardly anywhere to pull off the road if there is a large vehicle coming towards you. Large vehicles being over mass and over size mine related vehicles they would be straddling both lanes and you would be saying not yet I have a few more things to do, and they would be doing the right speed 100kms/p/h even though it would be dangerous for the drivers of these vehicles and very dangerous for any one else on the road.

A road audit in 2016 found intolerable and high safety issues on the Wollar road.

The Bylong mine proposal has meant more isolation for Wollar people and economic disadvantages for some of the local buisnesses. The remaining residents of the Wollar village have been left socially and economically stranded by the decision to approve the extension to wilpinjong mine.

The Wollar road is now the only way for us to obtain the services that were once available in Wollar village, so there fore safety is always on our minds when travelling this road. Road safety is a key issue so if the Bylong mine is approved then I feel that all roads which are going to be used by their traffic should be fixed to a standard that will hold up until they have finished mining. From Bylong to Mudgee using Main Road 208 the Wollar road through the Munghorn Gap nature reserve is only 80kms from Mudgee, the other option the road from Bylong through Lue to Mudgee is 100kms.

Which one would you be using after doing a 12 hour shift?

I strongly object to approval being given to the mining of Bylong Valley.

The Bylong Valley, is a spectacular piece of country and our state government wants it to be dug up for some years just to collect a few dollars in taxes and royalty. If this land is mined there will be so much damage done that it will probably never recover, there will be no water and no soil that is not contaminated.

Thank You