

ATTENTION: Jade Hosking

[REDACTED]  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000

**SUBMISSION TO THE PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION (PAC) ON THE  
BYLONG COAL PROJECT.**

I OBJECT to the proposed Bylong Coal Project for the following reasons:

1. My family has owned a beef cattle property in the Bylong Valley since the 1970's. I am very well aware of the difficulties experienced by my relatives regarding the ongoing provision of adequate water for stock, particularly during prolonged dry periods. My family relies solely on underground water for stock purposes.

I understand the proposed Bylong Coal Project, if approved, will have the right to draw a significant quantity of underground water for its mining activities. Even now there are periods of great uncertainty about water availability being experienced by Bylong Valley farmers. What will happen when Bylong Valley farmers find that the underground water they have been relying on for stock purposes is no longer available? What measures or safeguards have been proposed to ensure there is no detriment to farmers regarding the availability of water primarily for stock purposes, should the Bylong Coal Project be approved?

2. The approval of a new coal mining project is so inappropriate in this day and age. Coal is not the way of the future. Australia needs to be investing in renewable energy sources, not approving new coal mines that are promoting unrealistic long term employment opportunities.

3. I am very aware of the way in which The Bylong Coal Project has already fractured the Bylong community. Many farmers have virtually been "forced" off their once thriving properties by the offer of huge amounts of money, and then "gagged" and not allowed to speak out against the mining project. Whilst the freedom of expression and opinion are foundation stones of our society, Kepco, or its representatives, have imposed unreasonable gags on any person/s whose property they have purchased and this is surely objectionable.

4. Other reasons to object to this proposed new coal mining project include the damage to the iconic landscape that is the Bylong Valley which is bordered by a World Heritage area, the destruction of Aboriginal sites, significant concerns about the acoustic impact that this mining project will have on neighbouring properties, the impact on air quality in the valley for those who remain living there and damage to the existing biodiversity of the Valley.

I urge PAC to fully consider the devastating impacts that this project will have on the Bylong Valley, and to not approve the project.

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