

[REDACTED]

Dear Ms Hoskins

RE: BYLONG COAL PROJECT, BYLONG VALLEY NSW

I write to strongly protest about the proposal to grant approval for the Bylong Coal Project to proceed.

I have been visiting the Bylong Valley for the past 30 years because of family ties and to enjoy this strikingly beautiful and iconic environment.

Over the many years, I have observed Bylong's close knit community which up until recently held the well known Bylong Mouse Races which served as a fund raiser for many local and diverse causes. Slowly, I have seen this community disintegrate as Kepco has acquired so many of the farms to facilitate its mining venture. A skeleton of a community is now left.

It is so incredibly short sighted of the NSW Government to be considering permitting further coal mining projects to proceed, at a time when there are so many scientifically proven reasons as to why we as a nation should be promoting alternative energy sources.

When will this government take a stance, be smart, be brave ( it doesn't even have to be visionary because we know what the better alternatives to coal mining are!! ) and say "NO" to further coal mining.

Once this beautiful valley is scarred by the scourge of mining, despite assurances by Kepco, it can never be the same again. The social integration of a wonderful community is already crumbling, the water aquifers will be depleted to the detriment of remaining farmers who are constantly facing a battle to keep up with water supplies for their farming, domestic and animal needs, and the beautiful natural environment will be destroyed.

It is well known that even without this mine, farmers in the Bylong Valley already experience periods of great difficulty accessing sufficient groundwater to maintain their farming practices, particularly in prolonged dry periods. The additional drain on water resources from the aquifers will exacerbate this. In the absence of any guarantee that farmers will be able to continue doing what they have done for many many years, agricultural pursuits will become more and more difficult. Perhaps this is the end game Kepco and the government is wanting.

Please let all the scientific information against new coal mines prevail. Why would you want to approve this mine.? Do the advantages really outweigh the negatives?? If the advantages are primarily for financial gain, then how short lived will that be? Allow the beautiful natural environment remain unspoiled and bring continued pleasure to all who pass along the Bylong Valley Way, present and future generations.

Please don't let this mine proceed.

Yours sincerely

John Vandervord  
[REDACTED]

3/5/2017.