

I intend to boycott the farcical “Public hearing”

**BUT wish to voice strong OBJECTION**

**BULGA 2330.**

The Bylong Valley is an area of arable land on alluvial soils. It is home to the revolutionary Technique of “Natural Sequence Farming” developed by Peter Andrews at “Tarwyn Park”

- Extensive water use by and groundwater inflows to Kepco’s coal mine and its close proximity to the Bylong River will cause extensive and severe draw down of the productive Bylong alluvial aquifer, well beyond the minimal impact criteria of NSW’s Aquifer Interference Policy. In some places, for one of the models used, the drawdown of the alluvium exceeds 10 metres. The proposition that this is unimportant because Kepco has purchased surrounding properties is preposterous in the extreme. This proposal will leave yet another legacy of depleted Australian agricultural land to be sacrificed for short-term supply of a Korean Company. The Future of coal as an energy source is running out and the benefits to Australia minimal whilst the ill-effects will last forever, leaving the Valley potentially unable to support productive agriculture into the future after the coal mine has been exhausted. Even DPI and Kepco agree groundwater availability to agriculture will be considerably reduced in dry years.
- Considerable damage to the cultural heritage of the Wiradjuri people is assured with OEH predicting “permanent intergenerational consequences” In the six years that KEPSCO has been gobbling up the Bylong Valley, the Bylong Mouse Races have ceased, thoroughbred activity has ceased, the Bylong Upper School has ceased and many people have vacated the Valley, leaving it barely socially and economically viable. Another community has been decimated for a short-term gain. Remaining private landholders will be left socially and economically stranded and may ultimately lose access to water supply KEPSCO, owns and controls nearly half the available water in the Bylong River water source and intends to redirect this water from irrigated agriculture to open cut mining. Water is Australia’s most precious resource it should not be plundered for short-term gain. 440 hectares of sustainable agricultural activity will be sacrificed for a few years of coal. Prime agricultural land can never be successfully re-created.
- The mine will also remove 180 hectares of habitat for the critically endangered Regent honeyeater. The Recovery Plan for this species specifically states that “Any breeding or foraging areas where the species is likely to occur” including the area where this project occurs, is “critical to the survival” of this species. The Mudgee-Wollar area is specifically mentioned, where the Plan says that, “It is essential that the highest level of protection is provided to these areas and that enhancement and protection measures target these productive sites.” Australia’s unique species are being destroyed by mining. Once the flora or fauna is gone it cannot be replaced. Mining is a short-term unsustainable practice unique species should not be sacrificed for mining.
- Of major concern is the road between Wollar and Mudgee this road needs remediation and was specifically disallowed because of its poor condition, for the Wilpinjong mine activities yet now it is proposed as the primary road for the Bylong mine. This road goes through the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve and is a popular tourist drive. It is plainly unsafe and unsuitable to compromise this with a massive increase in mine traffic.

It is plain that desecrating this fertile valley is folly of the greatest concern.

The future of coal for Korea which is limited, should not take precedence of the future of Australian agricultural practice.

Tarwyn Park is too valuable as an Australian sustainable resource to be sacrificed for a resource that has a very limited future.

Australia and Australians should be put before the interests of KEPSCO.

**THIS PROJECT IS NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF AUSTRALIA AND SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO GO AHEAD.**

