

Iade Hoskins

NSW Planning Assessment Commission

Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Madam

Re: KEPCO BYLONG COAL PROJECT – MID-WESTERN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

I refer to the above and also read in local newspaper advising of the public hearing to take place in Mudgee on 11TH & 12TH May 2017, while I won't be able to attend the hearing I wanted to put my thoughts to paper in a written submission on the project.

While I understand there are environmental issues, the approval of this mine can only greatly outweigh any issues, by way of employment, huge economic benefits, support of local business, generous donations and local charity/organisation support, and put some life and hope back into the small towns of Kandos and Rylstone particularly.

With unemployment figures on the rise, and jobs especially hard to find in small towns and regional NSW, it's the big mining companies that are keeping these areas alive, as is proven with the continued and hopefully long term operation of Moolarben, Ulan and Wilpinjong Mines in the Mudgee area, not only with direct employment but with all the smaller and feeder industries that support these mines, with anything from tissues and hand wash to maintenance and supply of vehicles, fuel and tyres, signwriting, air conditioning and heating, the list goes on.

The towns of Kandos and Rylstone, have been hit hard over the last few years, with the closure of Kandos Cement Australia plant back in July 2011 costing almost 100 jobs, the Charbon underground mine closure, and the BIG RIM open cut coal mine closing almost 3, and 2 years ago respectively also taking over 100 jobs, which in the scheme of things may not seem like big losses, but to two small towns it was huge. These job losses had a flow on effect to local school numbers, other small businesses closing and cutting staff, and some families leaving town altogether.

Lets face it, is saving one species of tree going to put food on the tables and roof's over the heads of hundreds of men and women, not to mention the taxes paid by the mines, royalties etc paid to the state, as well as community funding, and local event sponsorship that these mines all contribute to, local school support, apprenticeship opportunities, and taxes paid by the employees themselves.

I have been to several community information sessions held by the Bylong Coal Project, and the rules and regulations that they must adhere to is huge, and I am sure that all these would continue to be followed should the project be approved.

With so many people knocking the coal industry and who are quick to jump on the "greeny" bandwagon, but not so fast to knock back the benefits that they provide, or to take the payments and handouts provided by the taxes, and royalties paid by the mining industry, the mining companies and from the taxes of the hundreds of men and women who work at the mines, and in associated industry, but still turn on their electric lights, and air conditioners all fired by coal powered electricity plants, sorry, but you don't see many of them living by candlelight and the old fashioned ice boxes.

The local newsagency in Kandos's main street is due to close in early June this year, after almost 90 years in it's main street location, the downturn in workers and families in the area have sadly made the business no longer viable to operate solely as a newsagency, so will be moved to a service station and operated in conjunction with that business, as is the story heard from many small towns that have suffered loss of workers, many small businesses are struggling.

I could keep going, but the main message of my letter is of SUPPORT for the Bylong Coal Project, and the prospect of great things that it would provide for the area.

I hope I can thank you for reading this, and look forward to hearing some positive news in the very near future that the Bylong project has been approved.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and address details of the sender.

(if this letter is published, I would appreciate it if my name and address details are not printed.
Thank you)