



Ms J. Hoskins
Commission Secretariat
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street,
SYDNEY, NSW 2000

19 May 2017

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Hoskins

RE: Bylong Coal Project

We refer to the State Significant Development Assessment Report provided for the Bylong Coal Project (“the project”) and to the previous submission made by NSW Farmers’ Association on 6 November 2015, a copy of which is enclosed.

NSW Farmers is Australia’s largest state farming organisation with members growing food and fibre for the domestic and export markets from beef, dairy, sheep and goat meat to wool, grains, cotton, horticulture, poultry, oysters, eggs, pork, winegrowers as well as thoroughbred breeders.

We support public policy and technical innovation aimed at:

- growing agriculture’s contribution to the Australian economy;
- a sustainable natural environment reflecting the dedicated stewardship of our farmers; and
- world’s best production and marketing practices, joining science and the practical expertise of farmers.

We are well placed to be a strong voice on behalf of our members when it comes to highlighting issues that threaten to affect the agricultural industry in this state. As we have previously stated, NSW Farmers is not opposed to mining but we insist that these developments must occur strategically and not at the expense of productive agricultural land, water resources and important existing industries.

NSW Farmers’ position on extractive industries is clear. We are calling for a scientific, evidence based and transparent approach to approvals that incorporates a *properly regulated* industry with *appropriate separations of power* in approvals and compliance. As raised in our previous submission, we are calling for independent benchmarking of air and water quality and other health and environmental data prior to exploration and/or mining licences being granted. It is with this in mind that we are concerned to again place on the record our concerns regarding the latest application by KEPCO Bylong Australia (KEPCO).

Upon review of the State Significant Development Assessment Report provided for the project, NSW Farmers confirms that there appears to be an inherent bias towards downplaying the agricultural significance of the Bylong area throughout the AIS. As previously raised, we consider there to be unacceptable impacts the project presents to Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (“BSAL”) which is a finite and special agricultural resource and glaring issues with the impacts to the equine Critical Industry Cluster (“CIC”) and rehabilitation measures.

NSW Farmers’ Association

ABN 31 000 004 651 [REDACTED]

Member Service Centre [REDACTED]

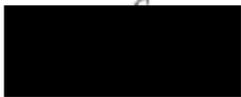
www.nswfarmers.org.au



In our earlier submission NSW Farmers raised concerns with the AIS methodology and the proponent's response in that neither requires nor has adequately addressed the future agricultural potential of the area. The Bylong Valley has some of the country's best soils; it is close to the Hunter Valley horse and wine industries and the wine industry in Mudgee as well as having good access to Sydney. As NSW Farmers has previously stated, if we are to be serious about empowering the farming sector to be a part of this growth into the future then we should be safeguarding special and strategic assets such as the Bylong Valley for the future.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Kind regards



Adair Moar
Environment Policy Director
NSW Farmers' Association