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NSW Planning Assessment Commission

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Attention: Jade Hoskins

Dear Madam

PROPOSED BYLONG COAL PROJECT

I refer to the abovementioned development and object to the proposal proceeding interalia on the following grounds.

The purpose of my comments are not to address all the issues the proposal raises but to raise the concerns of a resident (not located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed mine) adversely impacted by the proposed development.

To destroy the homogeneity of a pristine, unique and historical valley is simply outrageous. One only has to look at the magnitude of the overburden piles around Muswellbrook and Singleton to see the massive visual impact these developments have on the immediate area and the skyline.

The Bylong Valley is promoted as a major tourist attraction for the area. The visual impact and the conflict with mine vehicles will destroy the uniqueness of the area.

I have regularly travelled along the Bylong Valley for many years to visit friends at Cooyal near Mudgee. However since the Wollar mine has opened the gravel road between Bylong and Wollar has become too dangerous to use and I now have to travel via Merriwa.

This gravel road is substandard and was never constructed to be used by heavy vehicles associated with mine activities and simultaneously as a thoroughfare for locals and tourists.

If the mine proceeds then further issues arise with the transportation of coal from the mine to the Port of Newcastle. The only means of transportation is via rail which will substantially increase the number of trains required given the number of existing mines in the Mudgee area.

This is where the immediate and cumulative adverse impact occurs not only to myself and family but to every resident of Denman.

In the town of Denman there are 4 road/railway crossings and every time a train passes it has to blow its horn 2 to 3 times at each crossing. This means every resident in Denman is adversely affected by this noise. The impact is further compounded at night when multiple trains pass through town and residents are awoken by trains.

It is totally unreasonable for all the residents of Denman to be subjected to and adversely impacted by the further train noise and separation that will arise from the development.

The cumulative impact between Denman and Newcastle must also be considered by the Commission.

The expansion of coal mining in the Mudgee area cannot be allowed to proceed without regard to the adverse impacts on the wider communities as well as the local and immediate community.

If the development were to proceed it would not be unreasonable to require the proponents and the existing mines in the Mudgee area to relocate the existing railway line around the township of Sandy Hollow and Denman utilising the vast area of mine land in these localities. Relocating the line would have significant benefits to the operation of the existing mines in the Denman and Muswellbrook area and eliminate the impact on residents.

Given the issues I have raised above together with those that a full assessment of the proposal would identify the proposal should be rejected.

Yours Sincerely



Ross McDarmont