

Planning Assessment Commission
3/201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

19 May 2017

Rylstone District



Environment Society Inc.

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www.envirorylstone.org.au

Dear Commissioners,

Objection to the Bylong Coal Project

Rylstone District Environment Society asks that the Planning Assessment Commission refuses to allow the Bylong mining project to go ahead.

- Coal mining should not be permitted on strategic agricultural land. The proposed mine would cause the loss of 319 hectares of strategic agricultural land. Over 440 hectares that currently support irrigated agriculture will no longer do so if the mine goes ahead.
- Analysis requested by the NSW Department of Primary Industries shows the volume of water proposed to be drawn from the Bylong alluvial aquifer could exceed its recharge, leading to permanent depletion of the groundwater source. The proposed coal mining activity does not justify this long-term degradation of the water resource.
- We share the Department of Primary Industries' concerns that there may be insufficient water to run the mine in dry conditions, and has warned that some neighbouring bores may become non-viable as a result.
- The area covered by the proposal protects significant Wiradjuri cultural heritage, including artwork and an ochre quarry. The Wiradjuri heritage of the area has already experienced profound loss from nearby coal mines, and the Office of Environment and Heritage warns of 'permanent intergenerational consequences' if the loss of these sites continues.
- The mine would remove 180 hectares of habitat for the critically endangered Regent honeyeater. The recovery plan for this species states that 'Any breeding or foraging areas where the species is likely to occur', including the area covered by this proposal, is 'critical to the survival' of this species.
- Heavy mine vehicle traffic is proposed to travel through the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve and Wollar village between Bylong and Mudgee.

For these reasons we ask that the mine is refused approval to go ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Dr R J (Buzz) Sanderson

President, Rylstone District Environment Society (RDES)