

0263734275

Susan Schneider

Objection to Bylong Coal Project R040-17.

I wish to oppose the Bylong mine.

The Bylong Valley is an area of very productive agricultural land which the coalition assured the community would be protected from mining under the Strategic Gateway Plan.

There are numerous award winning cattle studs, cropping, lucerne growing. During long droughts in Western NSW and Queensland Bylong Farmers sent truckloads of hay for feed to desperate properties.

Such productive land should be permanently off limit to any kind of mining activity.

The coal company Kepco owns and controls nearly half the available water in the Bylong River water source. Over 440 hectares of land that currently supports irrigated agriculture will no longer do so if the mine goes ahead.

The Department of Primary Industries is also very concerned along with Bylong property owners that flow on impacts to Agricultural productivity in the Bylong Valley and the broader region.

In the six years since Kepco moved into the Bylong region it has bought up tens of thousands of hectares of farmland, floodplains, thoroughbred studs, such as "Lawryn Park", "Inka-Tong", "Bylong Station", "Sunnyside" and many others, the Bylong Upper school has closed, the Bylong shop has been sold. The famous Bylong mouse races have ceased, this raised many thousands of dollars for the community and local Bylong region, such as Bylong Fire Brigade, school, Bylong Hall, Bylong hospital etc.

Bylong is situated in a valley which is entered through steep, narrow, winding roads. The Bylong Valley

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Way is one of NSW tourism Top Ten road drives in NSW

The heavy mine vehicle traffic is proposed to travel through the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve and the Wallar village between Bylong and Mudgee.

The road through the Munghorn Gap is very narrow and winding with very sharp corners. There are many places where it would be impossible to pull off the road for oversize/mass vehicles.

The route Assessment of this road undertaken in 2006 for Wilpinyong mine concluded that it was not appropriate for oversize/mass vehicles

1, Strongly oppose the Bylong Mine