

Nic Clyde, Earlwood
Sydney, NSW, 2026

Reply to: [REDACTED]

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Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2001

By email: ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

Dear Independent Planning Commission members,

Please accept this as my submission on the recent expert heritage report from GML on the Bylong coal project. I am making this submission because I have visited the Bylong Valley, I have friends who live there and I'm passionate about protection of the heritage and farmland there.

Tarwyn Park

I note GML's statement that there is "*concurrence between professionals that Tarwyn Park meets threshold at state level under one or more criteria*" for listing on the State Heritage Register. GML go on to say that KEPCO's revised mine plan – if approved - "*may well risk Tarwyn Park's eligibility for listing.*" Given this assessment, it is clear to me that the Bylong Coal Project should be refused consent. I do not support approval of a new coal project that will damage state-significant heritage. I believe that the NSW community would share this view if polled on the question.

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration was declared on 1 March 2019 by the UN General Assembly. This initiative aims to massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems as a proven measure to fight the climate crisis and enhance food security, water supply and biodiversity. Against this backdrop, Natural Sequence Farming (NSF) – as practiced at Mulloon, near Braidwood in NSW - has been selected as one of only five global model projects by the [Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#) - a United Nations initiative to tackle the challenges of making ambitious changes to our global agriculture and food systems.

Tarwyn Park is where NSW was invented. It is the site of the longest continuous application of NSF on the planet. This technique has been selected by the UN to contribute to the development of globally applicable agricultural pathways and farming best practice models that are productive, profitable and sustainable. With this context in mind, it is inconceivable to me that the NSW IPC would prioritise another thermal coal mine over heritage values and the opportunity to leverage Tarwyn Park's fame to inspire our state and our country to make a globally-significant contribution to restoring landscapes and making agriculture more sustainable.

Finally, I note the NSW Farmers' description of the high-quality BSAL land in the valley as "*land with high quality soil and water resources capable of*

sustaining high levels of productivity.” Protection of functional agricultural country has a critical role sustaining NSW’s \$12 billion agricultural industry. As NSW Farmers said in their Bylong submission, in *“the case of the Bylong Valley, the location of this BSAL is also critically important to protect a strategic agricultural asset for near-to-market fresh produce for Sydney into the future.”* Protection of this place will yield many dividends for NSW into the future.

The Bylong Valley Landscape

The Bylong Valley landscape is special. It’s either exceptional, or extremely rare for a NSW landscape to be listed – as Bylong has - by the National Trust. In addition, I understand that the Bylong Landscape has been nominated for inclusion on the NSW State Heritage Register. I note GML’s statement that

“ ... based on the review of the National Trust listing for the Bylong Landscape Conservation Area, various consultants reports and our opinion, we would contend that the historic and aesthetic significance of the area has the potential to satisfy the threshold at state level.”

Given the significance of this landscape, I am disturbed to read expert commentary that *“direct impacts to the Bylong Landscape Conservation Area”* would be *“permanent and irreversible”* and *“areas of the valley’s natural and cultural landforms and patterns that contribute to its distinctive qualities will be irrecoverably altered”*. This is yet another reason why KEPCO’s coal mine proposal should not proceed.

Conclusion

New South Wales has plenty of coal mines, but it only has one Bylong Valley. I urge the NSW Independent Planning Commission to heed the advice of heritage experts and protect the Bylong Valley for future generations. To achieve this outcome, KEPCO’s Bylong Coal Project must not proceed.

