From: [redacted]
To: IPCN Enquiries Mailbox
Subject: KEPCO "s mine proposal in the Bylong Valley
Date: Wednesday, 19 June 2019 4:25:20 PM

From: Mike and Sue Pridmore
[redacted]
NSW 2849

TO: The Independent Planning Commission

Re: KEPKO's Bylong Valley Mine proposal

We are writing to express our grave concern about the possibility of this mine going ahead.

We live about 50 kms from Bylong Store, and the proposed Mine is on the near side to where we live.
Our professional life was as an environmental Native Plant Nursery, providing for large projects such as The Regent Honey- Eater Project and Landcare Projects.We have worked with Centennial Coal Mine at Charbon (and other mines)in the past, for many years, providing provenance seed for direct seeding, and planting our shrubs and trees on particular sites there, for rehabilitation. We retired about ten years ago.

This experience has given us awareness and experience into the workings of mines. We know that the the landscape is radically changed: hills are levelled, and flat areas are made into hills, and water areas created and others re-arranged. Early rehabilitation plantings which we did at Charbon were later razed to make way for new expansions of infrastructure. The "pristine" bushland at the Mine was littered with detritis of discarded machinery etc etc. Wild goats follow the seedlings and cannot be shot because they are on Mine Site. Efforts by the Mine to do the right thing by the environment simply cannot replace what NAture had put there originally.

This proposed Mine is the most wrong Mine in the wrong place. At a time when Australia, the world really, is needing to solve the problem of providing adequate food and water for our over populated globe, this proposal is defying all the logic.
The farmers in the Valley already form co-operative arrangements to metre out the water supply for their properties.
We are currently looking in the face of changing climate: for ourselves, a Wild Life Sanctuary, and 95 % bushland with about the best Spring in the area. we are watching the wildlife continue to scrounge for food, and our farmlands around us have dams that simply are not filling up. There has been so little rain. In fact we have been topping up a feed for our wild life for about 3 years, as we have gone through about three dry winters, and inadequate rain in the warrmer months to grow enough feed. We are not talking about kangaroos: we are talking about wombats, the smaller macropods, the little critturs, and birds

. As seed collectors (which we still try to be) there are practically no blossoms on the trees, very few insects, and hardly any seed to collect. This is right across the region the experience for seed collectors over the last few years. A commercial Bee keeping company from Muswellbrook trucked in thousands of beehives and placed around

properties here in an effort to make honey. They ended up quite quickly feeding their hives with sugar and water, "because there was no point returning them to Muswellbrook as there was no where to blossoms (with honey) there either."So they travel to and fro with sugar water for their poor bees.

Apart from this environmental issue of turning the agricultural and horse-breeding Bylong Valley into a Mining Valley, the other factors are also vital to consider. How on earth can the recommendation of bodies such as the National Trust, and State Heritage, and other scientific consultants, be overlooked, overturned? They warn us that there will be irrevocable damage to the landscape plus the loss of prime agricultural land, unique with its rural landscape of exceptional scenic value . How can all the advice like this be overlooked and overturned, without damaging the hope and trust of those on the ground, who KNOW, who live here, and have already experienced the degradation of land around the region from other mining.

Finally, we need to add that we understand that coal mining is being fazed out over time. I have personally met twice with the Executive personnel of the KEPKO mine, and found them extremely charming, engaging and delightful. But they are ignorant of the Australian culture and their values are based on what their country back home wants. I understand that what they have told me, us, are plans that do not really fit into our reality. E.G. The Mine will provide jobs for all these people who live in my home towns of Rylstone and Kandos. We believe in fact that this may not be realistic. Even if so, I fear for the lives of all the wild life on the Bylong Valley Road which links us with the Mi ne site. Already it is a road where there are constantly wildlife slaughtered and car and bike accidents of huge concern.

Please,please, don't let this Mine go ahead. There are other ways of creating jobs than digging up the Bylong VAlley.

Yours sincerely,

Sue, and Mike Pridmore

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