

Nic Clyde

████████████████████
Earlwood, Sydney, 2206
████████████████████

18 May, 2017

Submission - Bylong Coal Project (R040/17)

Dear Commissioners,

Please accept this submission as my official objection to the proposed Bylong Coal Project.

The project must be rejected.

The State Heritage Council is currently considering listing the world-famous Tarwyn Park property on NSW's State Heritage Register.

The NSW Department of Planning's March 2017 Assessment Report of the Bylong Project says that the project *"would directly impact a part of the Tarwyn Park property, which is partially located within the footprint of the open cut."*

The Bylong Project is a clear and unacceptable threat to Tarwyn Park.

NSW OEH notes that the NSW PAC may *"impose conditions in any determination to protect the heritage values"* of Tarwyn Park.

I believe these conditions should excise Tarwyn Park completely from the area to be both directly and indirectly impacted by the Bylong Project.

To me, the idea of turning the birthplace of Natural Sequence Farming (NSF) into a coal mine shortly after United Nations recognition of the method of NSF, is crazy. This property is the oldest and original example of NSF. It has a value beyond coal royalties.

It also has state significance as a thoroughbred racing stud.

The PAC is in a position to protect these values and I urge you to do so.

Heritage values of Tarwyn Park

Current nomination of Tarwyn Park for State Heritage Register

NSW OEH – in their submission on Tarwyn Park to the State Heritage Committee¹ – stated that Tarwyn Park may be of state significance:

1

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/heritagecouncil/shr-committee-minutes-oct2016.PDF>

- for its role in early settlement of the Central West, first settled by William Lee of Bylong Station
- for its continuous connection to thoroughbred horse breeding and the development of the horse racing industry
- the 1920s Tarwyn Park stone homestead and associated stone stables are an excellent example of the Federation design work of respected architect Harold Hardwick, and together with the other outbuildings, round yards and training track demonstrate its continuous association with thoroughbred racehorses
- for the technical achievements of Peter Andrews OAM who developed Natural Sequence Farming on the property. His methods as practiced at Mulloon near Braidwood have been selected in 2016 by the United Nations as one of only five global model projects of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- the SHR includes only one precinct listed for its agricultural research significance – Grantham Poultry Research Station (former) SHR 01382

National Trust recognition

In August 2013, the National Trust listed the 'Bylong Landscape Conservation Area' recognising the significance of its "*prime agricultural land with a rural landscape of exceptional scenic value*". At the time of listing on its register, the National Trust stated:

"The Landscape Conservation Area has scientific significance as the site of Peter Andrews development of his Natural Sequence Farming at Tarwyn Park based on the principle of reintroducing natural landscape patterns and processes as they would have existed in Australia prior to European settlement."

Tarwyn Park and thoroughbred horse breeding

Tarwyn Park historically one of the great studs in Australia

In the first half of last century, Tarwyn Park was already one of the great studs in Australia under the ownership of Herbert Thompson.

- Heroic was leading Australian sire in the 1930's. He sired 29 stakes winners including 1933 Melbourne Cup winner, Hall Mark.
- Rain Lover was Australian Racehorse of the year in 1969, dual Melbourne Cup winner in 1968 and 1969. He was inducted in the Australian Racing Hall of Fame in 2014.
- Peter Andrews purchased Tarwyn Park in 1973. Mr Andrews bred and raised 'Black Shoes', the leading 2-year-old filly of her year.

Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association judges NSF significant for horse breeding

The Hunter Valley is Australia's largest producer, supplier and exporter of premium thoroughbreds. It is one of only three international centres of thoroughbred breeding excellence in the world.

The Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association notes that:

“Tarwyn Park, through the commitment, determination and practices of its previous owner Peter Andrews, is the international test case for Natural Sequence Farming which promotes sustainable agricultural systems to improve fertility, hydrology, vegetation, natural landscape, and property stock levels – including the growth and performance of horses.”

Tarwyn Park and Natural Sequence Farming

Natural sequence farming (NSF) invented at Tarwyn Park

The Technical achievements of the practices of Peter Andrews and his son Stuart are of great significance and their work and contribution to farming practices has been recognised through the granting of an OAM to Peter.

United Nations recognition of NSF

On 2 February 2016, the UN found inspiration near Braidwood in NSW, on a property developed using Mr Andrews’ methods. The *Mulloon Community Landscape Rehydration Project* (MCLRP) was selected as one of only five global model projects by the [Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#) (SDSN) - a UN initiative to tackle the challenges of making ambitious changes to our global agriculture and food systems. ²

The CSIRO found “substantial agronomic and environmental improvements” from NSF

A CSIRO panel in 2002 found that *“NFS is a successful and sustainable farming system for the current enterprise at Tarwyn Park, where it has led to substantial agronomic and environmental improvements on the property.”*

Most popular ever ABC Australian Story

Peter Andrews and the story of Tarwyn Park - as told by ABC TV's Australian Story - has consistently polled as the most popular ever with viewers.

² <http://themullooninstitute.org/blog/>