

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PAC Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: FW: Opposition to proposed KEPCO Bylong Coal mine
Date: Tuesday, 9 May 2017 7:51:55 AM

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 8 May 2017 12:04 PM

To: Jade Hoskins

Subject: Opposition to proposed KEPCO Bylong Coal mine

My name is Louis Pearse-Hawkins and my family has had a property in the Bylong Valley for over 50 years.

I am writing this email to emphasise my opposition to KEPCO's proposal to construct and operate an underground and open-cut mine in the Bylong Valley, NSW. KEPCO's proposal and the government's complete bias towards approving this mine is utterly ridiculous for so many reasons. These are outlined below.

1. The integrity of the Bylong Valley will be ruined.

My family has owned a property in the Bylong Valley for over 50 years and three generations. I frequently visit the Valley and have lived there for short periods. The beauty of the valley astounds me every time I visit. Constructing and operating a coal mine in the valley will not only destroy the sense of remoteness and innocence the valley has, but a gaping hole in the ground is shocking to look at. I can say this from experience as I have visited many open-cut mines, they generally give the feeling of being on Mars and any sense of the natural world is replaced by a 24-hour noisy churn of trucks and dozers. To ruin the Valley's integrity and beauty for a coal mine that will last no more than 30 years is ridiculous. It highlights the single mindedness and stupidity of the government organisations involved.

2. Prime agricultural land will be lost.

The mine will destroy over 300 hectares of prime agricultural land. This is land that could be used to provide food to the public of NSW, rather than coal to Korea. This land will never return to its original state, no matter what rehabilitation measures are in place.

3. Important cultural history will be lost.

The proposed area for the mine would destroy significant Wiradjuri cultural heritage. This is part of Indigenous history. Too much Indigenous history has already been lost to mining. Indigenous history and people are the founding members of this land and we should respect them.

4. The quality and availability of ground water in the valley will be severely affected.

KEPCO own nearly half of the water in the Valley. This is water that would otherwise be available to farmers, who would use it to create food for the public of NSW. Periods of drought will now be even tougher for farmers in the Valley. Once the mine has stopped operation the ground water in the valley will be depleted and its natural structure, which was once sustainable for farmers to use, will be ruined.

5. Coal mining is not sustainable.

It is abundantly clear that burning coal to produce energy is affecting the planet in an adverse way and is not sustainable. The government chooses to ignore this point and continues to insult the public's intelligence with terms like 'clean coal'. Give me a break. Digging a massive hole in the ground will provide coal to create energy for a finite amount of time. Most of this coal will be shipped overseas to create energy for other countries, for a finite amount of time.

The life of this mine will come to an end and the Valley will be affected forever.

6. KEPCO has destroyed the community of Bylong.

Without the mine being approved, the small town of Bylong has already essentially been destroyed. Those who have not been able to hold out against the mine have left or been bought out, and those who have stayed are facing the loss of a once social and tight-knit community.

7. Coal mining is quickly becoming a redundant form of energy.

The demand for coal is dropping on a global scale. Australia should be investing more in clean, sustainable ways to create energy. This technology is readily available. Creating more coal mines is barbaric. By rejecting this mine, the government would be showing initiative and their commitment to a cleaner future for Australia.

I urge to please not approve this coal mine. There are smarter ways to create power without ruining peoples land and lives.

Louis Pearse-Hawkins.