



Mr Nic Clyde
NSW Community Coordinator
Lock the Gate Alliance
Email: nic@lockthegate.org.au

Dear Mr Clyde

I write in response to your letter which was hand delivered to the Independent Planning Commission following a protest at our offices at 201 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, on Tuesday 16 April 2019.

The Commission acknowledges your right to protest and I would like to thank everyone who participated in today's event for remaining peaceful and respectful, and cooperating with building management when asked to leave the building foyer.

I would, however, kindly ask that in future you notify us of any planned protest so that we can work with building management to accommodate you.

I have forwarded your letter to Commissioners Kirkby, Lewin and O'Connor, who I have appointed to determine the Bylong Coal Project (SSD14_6367), despite the deadline for written submissions having passed.

I acknowledge the concerns raised by Lock the Gate and its affiliate organisations.

As you are aware, the Commission's assessment and determination of state significant development is in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and its own policies and procedures. As such, I cannot, as Chair of the Commission, give you the commitment you are seeking in relation to the determination of this case.

I can, however, assure you that the Commission is observing all due process in its assessment and determination of this matter. The Panel has been provided all information sent by community groups to the Commission for its consideration.

At the time of determination, the Commission will publish a Statement of Reasons for Decision which will outline how the community's views were taken into consideration.

Should you have any questions, I have asked Sam McLean, Executive Director – Secretariat, (02) 9383 2100, to liaise directly with you.

Yours sincerely

Mary O'Kane
Chair
16 April 2019

(cc Mr Gordon Kirkby)