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Cc: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission re EPBC 2014/7133
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Submission re EPBC 2014/7133

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Submitted by Caroline Graham

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[REDACTED], **NSW 2099**

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Phone: [REDACTED]

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I have been campaigning against the destruction of NSW's water resources and prime agricultural land by mining operations since 1995.

This was the year when I first realised that the dead fish and the strange orange scum in my once beautiful Cataract River had been caused by BHP's longwall mining, which had been approved to go underneath the river. The damage was correctly predicted but the corrupt approval process went ahead in spite of this. The river lost 50% of its flow down thousands of subsidence cracks in the bedrock and of course never recovered.

Since then, after a successful court case against BHP in 1998, I have done my best to object to mining plans which threaten other NSW rivers and groundwater, and good agricultural land such as the Liverpool Plains.

It has been heartbreaking to watch approvals go ahead around NSW in the certain knowledge that irreparable damage will be caused. The worst recent cases are the plans which will destroy Bulga and now, this project planned to destroy the Bylong Valley.

There is a chance that you may take into consideration new information concerning the threat to water resources if you give the final approval to this plan. I am grateful for a this chance to submit my objections.

Bylong's situation on the perimeter of the Greater Blue Mountains National Park is surely a reason for you to refuse this plan. I have been very involved with the research into the disappearance of the once priceless Thirlmere Lakes inside the GBMNP. Longwall mines were outside the perimeter but the lakes disappeared anyway, and I urge you to look again at the damning research carried out by Professor Philip Pells, showing how and why this occurred. Nothing will bring these lakes back. Please don't repeat such mistakes.

Approval of the Bylong mine plan will be a scandal. I and many other concerned people have been to the Bylong Valley and have visited the amazing Tarwyn Park property. It is unbelievable that a property which has sparked international interest for its agricultural experiment should now be abandoned for short term profits. The corruption surrounding previous deals re the Obeid family and former Minister Ian Macdonald will never be forgotten. This historic and beautiful valley should not be lost to mining. It has fallen to you to prevent this.

There is a significant change now in public opinion and in research findings concerning climate change. The recent IPCC report makes it clear that the planet is in danger if people like you continue to approve the mining of fossil fuels. Insurance companies in Australia and elsewhere now are obliged to consider the impacts of global warming in their risk assessments, and Australia's APRA has adopted the relevant procedure.

The writing is on the wall. Banks and finance companies are increasingly reluctant to fund coal mining, given the likelihood that future disasters caused by increasing CO2 in the atmosphere will mean a more proactive prevention of use of fossil fuels soon. Already the planet has been hit by an unprecedented number of hurricanes/cyclones and fires. Already fish stocks are depleting and coral reefs are dying due to ocean acidity and warming.

Mining must be prevented soon, and mining which will destroy another beautiful valley and water resources in NSW should not be on your collective consciences.

Please do not approve this mine plan.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Graham

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