

23.10.18.

Attn: Hon Melissa Price MP

Re: **EPBC number 2014/7133**

Bylong Coal Project (KEPCO Bylong Aust Pty Ltd)

Dear Ms Price,

I write to support the call by the people of Bylong to ensure that the above coal project application includes consideration of its impacts on World Heritage properties. Frankly, I'm surprised that an application for a coal mine development, situated on the edge of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (Wollemi National Park), which also includes the historic agricultural Tarwyn Park property, combined with the importance of this location to cultural heritage the Wiradjuri People wasn't specifically subject to world heritage impacts assessment as a controlling proviso in March 2014.

In 2017, the NSW Planning Assessment Commission raised concerns about a lack of relevant empirical data, and a lack of consideration of impacts on local and world heritage assets, inherent in the Bylong Coal Project proposal. For brevity, I refer you to page 33, paragraph 7 of their report *The Planning Assessment Commission Review Report: Bylong Coal Project*. This documented recognition suggests that specifically subjecting Bylong Coal Project to world heritage impacts assessment, as a controlling proviso is, in fact, long overdue. Please use your ministerial power to reverse this oversight. Make the Bylong Coal Project subject to world heritage impacts assessment, as a controlling proviso.

Finally, since 2017, new information that reiterates the need to subject the Bylong Coal Project to scrutiny regarding World Heritage property impacts has been collated by the Bylong community, the Heritage Council of NSW and The Independent Planning Commission (February 2018). As the minister responsible, I most respectfully request that, you access the papers prepared for the Heritage Council and discussed at its February 2018 meeting, and the report prepared subsequently by a sub-committee of the council and provided to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. It's vital that the risk this mine poses to World Heritage values can be fully assessed and properly considered by the Federal Environment Minister under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Desiree Marshall

██████████ Charlestown, Newcastle, NSW 2290

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