

Mr Gordon Kirkby  
Chair Bylong Coal Project Panel  
NSW Independent Planning Commission

Dear Mr Kirkby

I am a professional educator in Natural Sequence Farming (NSF). Natural Sequence Farming aims to develop farming methods which, are more suited to the Australian landscape and climate than traditional European based methods. As such, the development of Natural Sequence Farming makes a vital contribution to the search for long-term sustainability in Australian farming. Natural Sequence Farming principles have gained widespread acceptance and the UN has determined it to be one of only five, sustainable farming systems whilst, many other farms, have adopted these methods of regenerative agriculture.

I understand that the mine plan has been modified to exclude Tarwyn Park and Iron Tank from the project area. Although, I welcome this recognition of the heritage value of Tarwyn Park and Iron Tank, I, believe the properties are still threatened by proximity to the mine. The proposed mine in the Bylong Valley is incompatible with Natural Sequence Farming, which relies primarily on having the floodplain aquifers fully hydrated.

The mine project, if approved, will threaten the surface and underground water on which Natural Sequence Farming depends. Tarwyn Park and Iron Tank will also be significantly impacted by dust, noise, light pollution, heavy traffic and vibration. Furthermore, the properties will be inaccessible without approval from the mine management. Mining will destroy the viability of Tarwyn Park as a working model of Natural Sequence Farming.

I understand, that the proponent has indicated that they will attempt to maintain the agricultural potential of Tarwyn Park. However, to date it seems that the mining company has not been applying the principles of Natural Sequence Farming. To the best of my knowledge, the company has not contacted the Andrews family or any other researchers or practitioners with NSF knowledge and expertise in regenerative agriculture, so, I have serious doubts about KEPCO's intention to follow the pioneering methods developed on Tarwyn Park by Peter Andrews OAM and his son, Stuart Andrews.

In the last fifteen years, I have trained hundreds of farmers and researchers in the application of Natural Sequence Farming. Initially, this training was conducted at Tarwyn Park and Iron Tank but since the mine purchased the land, I have been unable to continue training on these unique properties. So again, this gives me reason to doubt the stated commitment of KEPCO to fostering regenerative agricultural practices.

I strongly object to the approval of the mine because it will destroy the home of Natural Sequence Farming which, has BOTH national and international significance.

Please contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely

*Duane Paul Norris*

Duane Norris, BScAgr (Hons1); MSusMngt: NCH (UK)  
Tarwyn Park Training Co-ordinator

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