

Good morning ladies and gentlemen and members of the planning and assessment commission

- Hi to all present and thanks for the opportunity to write in support of the Bylong coal project
- Obviously as you will soon workout that I am and still do have a passion for the valley itself but also with the industry that I work within, the coal industry
- I Come from a long line of coal miners as my father and grandfather also served the industry way back in the early 1900s now both of my sons are back in the industry in the Mudgee area
- I first myself started in the industry in 1975 for BHP in the illawarra region with a total of 43 years experience
- The industry has given my family and I a world of opportunities one of which was to purchase a little piece of this glorious country in the Bylong valley itself and the only regret I have of that is I didn't get to buy bigger.
- I started travelling through the valley in 1999 when I worked for Xstrata coal and I always said I would love to have a place here whenever the right place became available which I did acquire Nullabah down the southern end of the valley three and a half years ago.
- I of all people who have seen both sides, both mining and the picturesque beauty of the valley would hate to see it spoilt. And would like to see everything within our capabilities to ensure that it is protected.
- Benefits to be gained from the mines approval will be ongoing for the life of the project and particularly in the drought they are currently dealing with, albeit they have a bit of feed on the ground here at the moment but still little water in reserve for the irrigators.
- I have experienced some not all of the issues currently being managed as well as is possible by the local farmers and don't believe for a minute that Kepco or anyone would like to see this little piece of paradise spoilt in anyway.

See Below current harvesting in the local area



Note: As a supporter of the project and to allay any fears of the locals that water supply could remotely be affected, would it be possible to include a simple but effective water transfer station in the engineering design for the project, for any or all of the irrigators around the mines leases to

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draw on, these systems are currently online at 2 other mine sites in the western coalfields. Added value would be beneficial to the community plus already acquired lands the company also own, storage is the key for all.

- This investment would only cost a drop in the bucket compared to what they the company has already invested in the area being \$700m
- So given the project gets its final approval they would also provide a further \$9m to the VPA (voluntary planning agreement) to the mid western regional council.
- Will provide 650 jobs for the community during construction.
- Will employ 450 full time jobs at the peak of production.
- Will put \$4.8 - \$5 Billion into the states economy
- Will invest a further \$1.3 Billion into capital expenditure into the project.

All of which will have further added value to the states economy, and also create a wealth of employment for those who want work there.

I also realize that we don't live in a perfect world but I would stand by the word of all interested parties, stakeholders and the local people to ensure with all the right tools and equipment that the mine will do everything within its power to control the relevant issues within the boundaries of the mine site.

Key points to consider within the industry for additional controls

1. Environmental laws such as non disturbance of specific areas
2. Surface rehabilitation requirements
3. Discharge licenses
4. water usage licenses
5. Independent site monitoring
6. Computerized monitoring systems
7. Transport regulations
8. OHS Laws
9. Equal opportunity laws
10. Mining design guidelines
11. Targeted inspections from the relevant departments
12. Operational management plans

On a closing note some of the local communities that have been impacted deeply with the closure of numerous assets in the district

Lithgow ,Wallerawang, Kandos, Rhylstone, Portland

From the closures of

Kandos cement , Charbon colliery ,Baal bone colliery ,Wallerawang power station ,Angus place colliery just to name a few – Let us not forget the business community has also suffered for that reason also - from Lithgow to Rylstone which has driven away lots of people family and friends, and for that reason - I urge you all to consider the future of all your families friends and the people who have suffered from these closures and let them have an equal opportunity to survive and thrive from the resource that this project will bring and maybe even bring some of these people home.

As a closing comment I would like to ask that you please take the department of planning's advice on board and recommend the approval of the Bylong coal Project