

From: [REDACTED]
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: FW: Submission of objection to the proposed open cut and underground coal mine in the Bylong Valley
Date: Thursday, 15 November 2018 10:29:16 AM

Dear Members of the Commission,

My emailed submission was returned undeliverable. Please see below.

Sincerely

Meg Nielsen
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 November, 2018 9:54 AM
To: ipcn@icpn.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission of objection to the proposed open cut and underground coal mine in the Bylong Valley

Dear Members of the Independent Planning Commission,

Please note our points of objection:

We are seriously concerned that the Department of Planning final assessment report fails to adequately consider many important factors. i.e :

- 1a) Considerable threats to the Bylong River and connected groundwater including threats to other water users and agricultural production.
- b) Significant threats to state significant heritage landscape values of Bylong Valley.
- c) Serious threats to ongoing farming enterprises in the area including the internationally acclaimed, pioneering Natural Sequence Farming techniques at Tarwyn Park.
- d) Threats to the Wollemi National Park and Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, cumulative loss of Aboriginal cultural heritage, biodiversity and community in the region.
- 2) The Bylong Valley has been an important source of drought fodder for many years. This production is reliant on an adequate source of water to grow lucerne and pasture.
- 3) NSW Government policy states that, "The NSW Government endorses the Paris Agreement and will take action that is consistent with the level of effort to achieve Australia's commitments to the Paris Agreement." This mine has a life span up to 2044 and is not consistent with this government's own policy.
- 4) It is the duty of the Independent Planning Commission to consider the report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The 1.5 degrees report that was handed down on the same day as the Bylong final assessment report. Keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees means we must phase out coal in OECD countries like Australia and South Korea. We need to phase out coal burning by 2030.
- 5) There is no clear or adequately costed justification for Bylong Coal Mine. The long term environmental, social and economic impacts including loss of farming capability into the future have not been considered.
- 6) As farmers ourselves, we consider this an irresponsible sacrifice of 400 ha of prime agricultural land consisting of fertile soils with excellent water retention capabilities, overlaying good groundwater. This cannot be acceptable. This rare capability is not something that can be rebuilt on mine rehabilitation. There is no precedent for this scale of prime land reconstruction anywhere worldwide. *This is not a plasticine model in some child's game, it is an intricate ecosystem that has evolved over many millions of years.* Likewise the proposed reconstruction of 65 ha of critically endangered ecological community on the rehabilitated open cut mine site is an

unacceptable proven risk.

7) The potential impact of subsidence from the underground mine has been underestimated and is acknowledged to be a problem. It is totally inappropriate for the largest biodiversity offset to be on the mine subsidence area.

8) The cumulative loss of habitat for many threatened species, including that of the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater, has not been assessed.

The Bylong Valley is not appropriate country for a coal mine. We ask that you reject the application of this mine and preserve the beautiful Bylong Valley. As so many have advised, our health & a thriving economy depends on a future which does not include coal.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter and Meg Nielsen

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"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." Jane Goodall



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