

# The Equation for Bylong Valley

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Public meeting

Independent Planning Commission

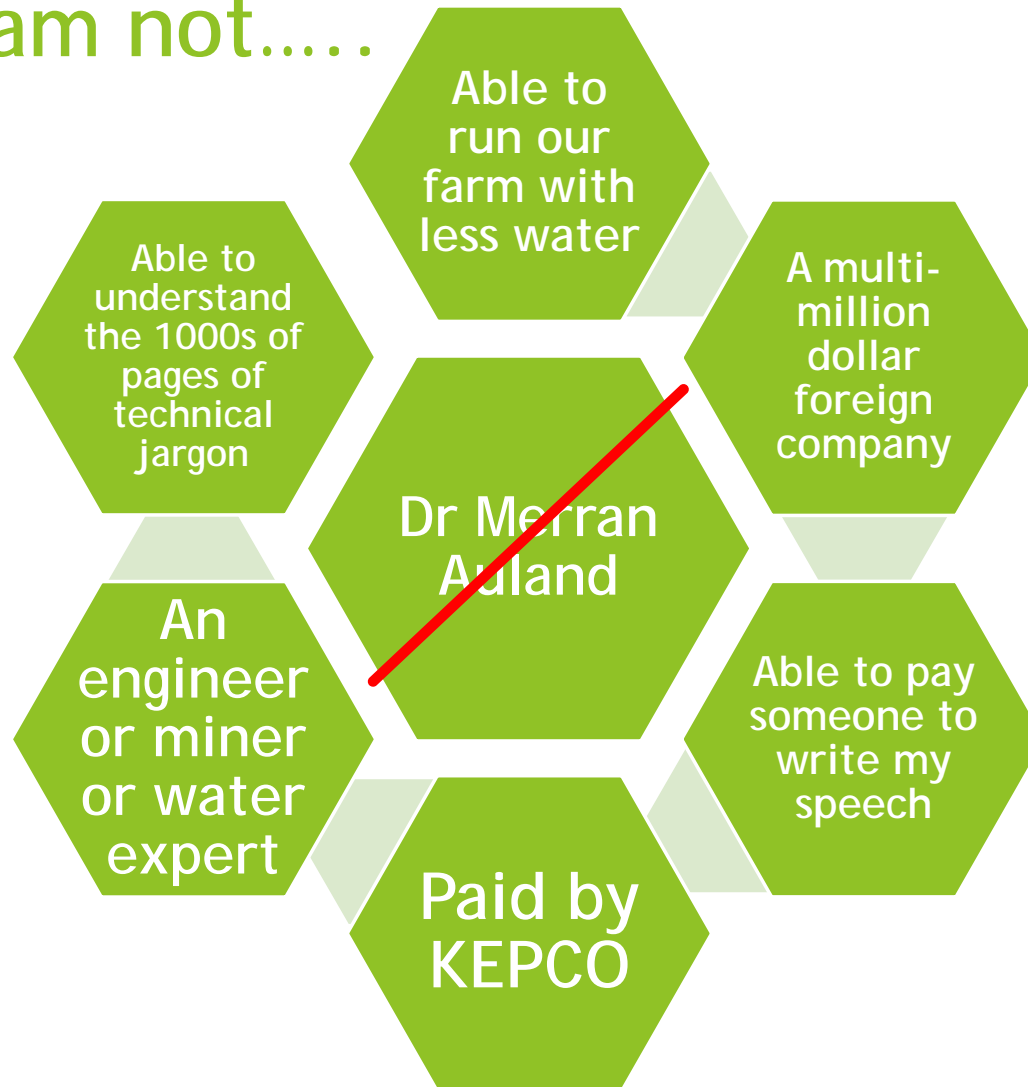
Wednesday November 7<sup>th</sup> 2018

# What I am.....



A local looking at the bigger picture

# What I am not.....



Want to address one issue

# Precious Limited Resources

- ▶ The world economic forum ranks water security as the top global risk facing societies, economies and businesses over the next decade
- ▶ Global Warming is increasing and all of NSW is in Drought
- ▶ The Australian Federal Government pledged billions for 'water security' at the Drought Summit last month
- ▶ The 2017 Planning Assessment for the Bylong Coal mine stated that the mine
  - " would represent a fundamental shift in the valley in favour of mining as opposed to agricultural or pastoral pursuits, and that the water security on which agricultural activities depend, may be jeopardised"*
- ▶ Department of Primary industry warned that the Bylong mine.....
  - " would potentially result in significant sections of the Bylong River to cease flowing"*
- ▶ The Department of Primary Industries documents show the proposed KEPCO mine poses a "risk to government" because the security of water supply to the project "will not be sufficient under drought conditions" and could result in KEPCO seeking additional water under licence.
- ▶ The Mid-western Regional councils Comprehensive land use strategy states
  - ▶ Ensure the integrity of ground and surface water is maintained
  - ▶ Protect areas of high scenic and/or conservation value

Why are we wasting water to give Koreans more coal

# No Guarantees

- ▶ Non-committal words and jargon selected by KEPCO in their publications
- ▶ Reports used for decision making, where even independent reviews are not arms length from KEPCO
- ▶ Water modelling used in the submissions from KEPCO are all based on assumption
  - Assumptions that have been generated by KEPCO
  - Assumptions have been tested by KEPCO
  - Even the independent reviewer concluded that different styles of modelling provided different outcomes while based on the same data - Some models worked better at predicting some impacts - who controls what the mine presented
- ▶ They have already been prosecuted for misleading information
- ▶ What can we trust
  - Thalidomide
  - Lung cancer

Are KEPCO prepared to back their predictions?

## Destruction of waterways

- ▶ Redbank Creek NSW
  - GFG Alliance's Tahmoor Mine longwall mining has cracked the bedrock
  - Redbank Creek has run dry
  - "Environmental impacts have exceeded performance measures identified in the mine's approved Environmental Management Plan, which has triggered the requirement for a remediation plan," a NSW Government spokesman said in a statement.

## Poisoning of water

- ▶ Walsh River QLD
  - Baal Gammon copper mine has contaminated the Walsh river
  - Locals unable to use water for drinking or stock or primary production
  - 'the concentration of copper in one of the spills would have been sufficient to cause 50 per cent mortality to 95 per cent of Australian fish species' - Nick Lichti , Department of Environment and Heritage Protection prosecutor

## Excess Diversion of water

- ▶ Whitehaven Coals Maules Creek mine
  - A review showed it captured 1,800 million litres (ML) of surface water in 2016, despite being licenced to take 30 million litres.
  - In 2015 Maules Creek Coal Mine was fined \$15,000 for road dust
    - more water used to prevent road dust

## Reduction in available water

- ▶ Hunter Bioregional Assessment confirmed that
  - 2441 square kilometres could experience groundwater drawdown due to potential new mines or mine expansions
  - Large changes in flow regime are possible in many local creeks and rivers
  - About 1228 kilometres of streams and 102 square kilometres of groundwater-dependent ecosystems are potentially affected by changes in groundwater or surface water

TOO  
MANY  
RISKS

# No Benefits

- ▶ KEPCO state they have spent more than \$702 million on the Bylong Project
  - More than half was to pay Anglo American \$403 million for the licence in 2010
  - Buying local farms, the school, the church and the shop
  - KEPCO state they will also spend around \$1.3 billion in capital investment
  - NO BENEFITS TO BYLONG

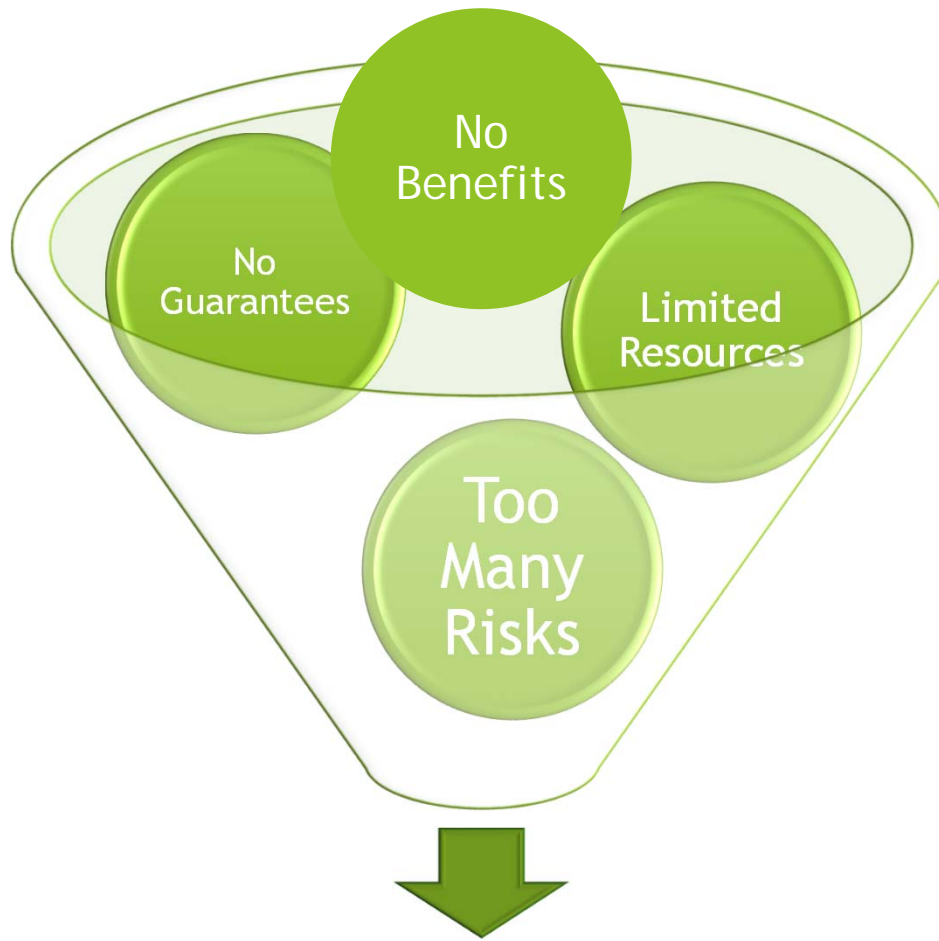
- ▶ KEPCO said

'the proposal would generate \$290 million in present-value royalties for the NSW Government over the life of the mine'

- That's about \$2 per tonne of coal ( $\$290 / 6.5 \text{ million tonnes pa for 23 years}$ )
- Its \$11.6M per year
- Enough to pay for about 1/3 of the upgrade to Sydney Olympic park stadium
- Would pay for about half of the cost of the pipeline to take water to Broken Hill
- NO BENEFITS TO NSW

Why are we contemplating this when there are NO Benefits to NSW

# THE BYLONG VALLEY EQUATION



**NO APPROVAL**