

Dear Independent Planning Commission Members

I am writing to object to the proposed Bylong Coal Project.

I am 93 years old and have owned a cattle property in the beautiful Bylong Valley since the early 1970's. My extended family love to spend as much time as possible on my farm, enjoying the beauty of the Bylong Valley, the stunning sandstone cliff lines and the peace and tranquillity away from their busy city lives. This is a place where they can bring their young children to one of the most beautiful environments not that far from Sydney. Such destinations are becoming increasingly harder and harder to find. This valley should be treasured for its natural beauty and relative isolation – in my lifetime, I have witnessed the destruction of so many places of natural beauty – what will my grandchildren and great grandchildren be left to enjoy?

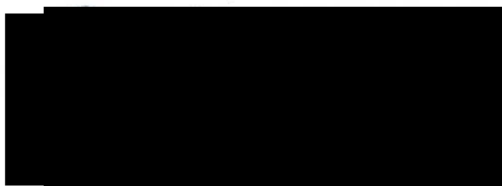
If approval is given for the Bylong Coal Project to proceed, all of what I and my family love about this valley will be destroyed forever. The Bylong community that I once knew so well and was so involved with, has been destroyed by the sale of many properties to the coal mining company. Many of the people I knew who were virtually forced to sell their farms have been silenced as a condition of their sale, and this has caused a lot of ill feeling in the valley. The social fabric of this once fairly tight community has been shredded.

As a farmer, I of course am very concerned about having a reliable source of cattle water. I rely on very deep bores from which we draw all our cattle water, but these are becoming increasingly unreliable. Of course I am greatly concerned about the impact of a coal mine on groundwater resources. Once our water resource is gone, it will simply not be possible to run any livestock on my property.

I have lived long enough now to experience and observe the effects of climate change. I express the great wish and desire that this proposed Bylong Coal Project is not approved, so that our beautiful natural environment is preserved and the agricultural livelihood of the remaining farmers in the Bylong Valley is enabled.

Please do not approve this proposed coal project.

Yours sincerely

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