

# The Globe

HOTEL · BAR · RESTAURANT

Dear Independent Planning Commission NSW

I am writing as a local business owner to offer my support of the KEPCO Coal Project in Bylong Valley. I was unable to attend and speak at the community meeting on Nov 7<sup>th</sup> but still wish to communicate my support for the project.

As I use to work for the Parliament of NSW, I know that all care and due diligence has been considered by the Government in regards to the environmental impact. I shall therefore only address in my support the social and economic impact.

Without a doubt, the Kepco Coal Project will revive employment and reverse all socio-economic damage caused by the closing of the cement works in Kandos and Sabelco. This impact has causing two banks and a supermarket to close in Rylstone alone due to the lack of patronage.

Kandos has nearly double the average unemployment and no willingness by the youth to better themselves. Those who come to me for an interview to say they have been looking for work say the same thing, "no jobs, no opportunities and what's the point".

I believe Kepco will provide economic stability and growth by bringing to the towns necessary support service and businesses that will compliment and work alongside the coal project.

In my case, it has the ability to provide accommodation and food & beverage services over the 18 month set up stage with ongoing long term benefits.

This opportunity will allow The Globe Hotel to drive further its own community support programs such as each Friday for the Rylstone Kandos pre school and Rylstone Public School (raised 30K last year). Our Sunday darts supports the local Pony Club through the provision of much need equipment (1,5K), The ongoing support of events such as street feast, our monthly markets BBQ supports The McGrath Foundation and Movember and Kandos Street Machines just to mention a few. Our recycling of cans supports local children by fundraising through recycling. The mine has the ability to support the local community at the local grass roots level. Kepco Coal Project have invested over \$600 000 to local community groups, schools, events and local charities.

They have provided a consistent presence to inform local residence of their plans through information sessions and stalls at the local shows etc. They have consulted consistently.

Kepco will spend a projected 1.3 Billion in capital investment in the local area of Kandos and Rylstone. This is staggering and this is for me the crux of why this mine must proceed. There is nothing else coming to invest in Rylstone or Kandos and without it the youth will have no opportunity, the towns will shrink and businesses will close. The recent drought provides further evidence of what occurs when businesses struggle or close due to lower disposable incomes.

The Government will receive royalties of around \$278 million over the span of the mine with the Local Council of Mudgee benefiting from an additional \$9 million dollars which will have a positive impact on the whole region.

I ask that The Commission be aware that those in the community directly affected by the proposed Coal Project welcome it warmly.

Regards

*Philip Peter*

Philip Freeman & Peter Hatfield

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