

WARRABINGA

Warrabinga Native Title Claimants Aboriginal Corporation

ICN: 2972

Incorporated in the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006


MUDGEES NSW 2850

14 November 2018

Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Sent via email: Email: ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re Bylong Coal Project (SSD 6367)

Warrabinga Native Title Claimants Aboriginal Corporation ("Warrabinga") wish to acknowledge the recent completion of the comprehensive assessment of the Bylong Coal Project by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

We further acknowledge the project is now being considered by Independent Planning Commission NSW ("IPC").

Warrabinga recognise that such projects like the Bylong Coal Project are an important element to securing a strong regional economy, more jobs, now and in future years for our region to thrive. In addition to the economic benefits and job opportunities the Bylong Coal Project would deliver to our region, such a project would also provide many positive impacts to the future development of Warrabinga.

KEPCO recognise that Warrabinga has traditional rights and interest to land and waters in the Bylong Valley, and over the last few years, the sprint of the relationship between KEPCO and Warrabinga has evolved through collaboration, and recently with KEPCO finalising a Native Title Agreement with Warrabinga, inclusive of associated tenements that are part of the Bylong Coal Project.

Warrabinga is equally committed to the perseveration of heritage, landscape and sacred sites, particularly how any industry project could potentially impact the Bylong Valley. Furthermore, we support the conditions and recommendations being proposed by IPC and NSW State Government, and trust approval for the Bylong Coal Project is an achievable motion.

We look forward to our mutual dedication to work closely with industry experts and ongoing collaboration with KEPCO to alleviate community concerns on Warrabinga core country, and trust KEPCO will maintain continuity between their commercial interest and commitment to the perseverance of our region.

In support of the Bylong Coal Project, a successful decision from the IPC, will have a significant and immediate impact on Warrabinga to:

- further develop our cultural and heritage programs and events.
- invest further into the Warrabinga corporation structure to improve our governance, planning and readiness to implement new community opportunities and initiatives.
- undertake additional planning and development for future initiatives e.g. Aboriginal Medical Centre, Indigenous Scholarships.
- retain and further develop our professional advisory team to provide ongoing direction in the assessment and implementation of various enterprising opportunities to create new profitable ventures and jobs for our region.

KEPCO continues to work closely with community stakeholders, Indigenous Business Australia and the NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce. Warrabinga is aligned with KEPCO policy to promote Indigenous employment and economic development. I believe KEPCO is committed to ensuring the community will benefit to the best extent possible from the Bylong Coal Project. Projects like this are critical for regional growth.

To achieve a successful and sustainable outcome for all, I welcome the Bylong Coal Project, and the opportunity to discuss future strategies.



David L. Masters
Chairman & Director at WARRABINGA

