

28/04/2014

Claire Bettington  
357 Maroubra Rd  
Maroubra NSW 2035

Mining and Industry Projects  
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Part 3A Modification 4 – Invincible Mine Extension (07\_0127 MOD 4) and  
Part 3A Modification 2 – Cullen Valley Mine Extension (DA 200-5-2003 MOD 2)**

**I strongly object** to these proposed modifications to the Invincible and Cullen Valley coal mines because they will adversely impact on the internationally significant pagoda landform complex located on the western edge of the Great Dividing Range in Ben Bullen State Forest.

It is a wonderful scenic area and has unique rock formations. The public forest should be fully protected from open-cut mining in a state conservation area for nature conservation, recreation and tourism.

Also, the coal in this proposal is of poor quality and there are better quality substitute resources that can provide at least 25 years electricity generation by the two power plants in the Lithgow Region.

The claim of increased costs to electricity consumers if the Coalpac proposal does not proceed is a wild exaggeration, and **should not** be a basis on which to destroy a unique environment. Nearby underground mines have provided for local electricity power plants for over 20 years.

The proposal will destroy by open-cut mining the unique biodiversity, scenery and geological values associated with the pagoda landform complex.

Its outstanding values including a Grassy Box Woodland – a nationally endangered ecological community, many nationally endangered *Clandulla geebung* shrubs and 2,300 threatened Capertee Stringybark trees.

The Planning Assessment Commission recommendation for independent vegetation study should not have been ignored.

The proposal fails to provide the 300m minimum buffer recommended by the Planning Assessment Commission from the base of the pagoda rock formations and the open-cut area. Such a buffer would provide protection for wildlife including many Lyre Birds and the threatened broad headed snake. If such a buffer were provided, there would be no mine.

The proposal is less than two kilometres from Cullen Bullen and dust from this project will lead to increased morbidity and mortality in the community from respiratory and cardiovascular disease.

Noise, truck movements and blasting will also adversely impact on residents.

The proposal intends to vastly increase water extraction from underground workings from 26MI/year to 750MI/year – a non-sensical idea in a land where drought is normal.

It also fails to address the ongoing fires underground and in waste heaps.

Where 2MI/day of water pumped from old workings is to be released is not explained.

The Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment lacks credibility because it did not find a cave art site in the proposed disturbance area for the Cullen Valley Mine. Previous studies had missed other important Aboriginal cave art sites in the area.

Despite Coalpac's claim, ecosystems cannot be replanted on farmland and especially after open-cut mining.

No mature woodland has ever been established in mine rehabilitation.

The biodiversity offsets are inadequate and are in my view a complete farce, as you **cannot replace** such a unique area.

I made a donation to the Greens and a donation to the ALP in the last year – about \$100 to each.

Yours sincerely,

**Claire Bettington**

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