

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 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. This public forest should be fully protected from open-cut mining in a state conservation area for nature conservation, recreation and tourism.

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. 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 300 metre minimum buffer recommended by the Planning Assessment Commission from the base of the pagoda rock formations and the open-cut area. The buffer provides 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 26ML/year to 750ML/year, but fails to address the ongoing fires underground and in waste heaps. Where 2ML/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 cannot replace a Gardens of Stone Stage 2 reserve.

I declare that I have not made any donations to political parties in the last year.

Yours sincerely,



23rd April 2014

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

I wish to object to the above proposals in their entirety. In support of my objection, I am enclosing copies of extensive texts I and my co –author Brian Fox have written regarding this World Heritage sensitive geo diverse and bio diverse area.

I also wish to give notice that I wish to appear before hearings conducted in respect to these proposed modifications.

Enclosed documents are,

**Book 1- The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond
Bushwalking at Mount Airly and east of Ben Bullen; plus regional Geology and Geomorphology**

**Book 2 - The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond
Bushwalking at Newnes and the Wolgan – Capertee Divide; plus Regional Climate**

**Book 3 - The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond
Bushwalking at Donkey Mountain, Carne Creek, South of Wolgan River and
Mount Cameron; plus Regional Aboriginal Occupation and Historical maps.**

**Book 4 - The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond
Bushwalking in the headwaters of Bungleboori Creek, Wollangambe River,
Nayook Creek; plus the Regional River Catchments and Water Pollution.**

**Book 5 - The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond
Bushwalking in the Ben Bullen Ranges; plus Regional History and Local Place Names.**

In production, part layout copy and part original text

**Book 6 - The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond
Bushwalking on the northern Newnes Plateau; plus Regional Flora and Fauna.**

Original text only Production scheduled for later in 2014

In addition, the following

Book 7 - The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond

**Bushwalking in the southern Newnes Plateau; plus the last
Three Centuries of European Settlement.**

Book 8 - The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond

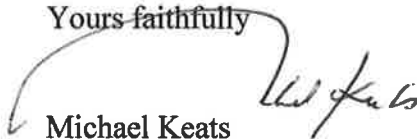
**Bushwalking in the headwaters of Deanes Creek, Rocky Creek and Budgary Creek;
plus Threatened species and Environments within the Region.**

Book 9 - The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond

**Exceptional bushwalks across the Gardens of Stone area completed since the
earlier books were written, plus the Political History of the Gardens of Stone
National Park.**

are at an advanced stage of preparation and should be released in 2015 and 2016.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Michael Keats', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature back towards the 'Yours faithfully' text.

Michael Keats