

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 for the following reasons.

Mining coal means destroying our natural heritage for harvesting a fossil fuel which is non-renewable and investments should be made in the production of renewable energies. The claim of increased costs to electricity consumers if the Coalpac proposal does not proceed is unfounded and appears to be an exaggeration.

The proposed mining activity would adversely impact on the internationally significant pagoda landform complex located on the western edge of the Great Dividing Range in Ben Bullen State Forest. Therefore this forest should be fully protected from open-cut mining in a state conservation area for nature conservation, recreation and tourism.

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.

Technically, the proposal fails to provide the 300 meter 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 proposed mining activity would be less than two kilometers from Cullen Bullen and dust from this project would likely lead to increased morbidity and mortality in the community from respiratory and cardiovascular disease. Noise, truck movements and blasting would also adversely impact on residents' health and wellbeing. The proposal intends to increase water extraction from underground workings from 26MI/year to 750MI/year, but fails to address the ongoing fires underground and in waste heaps. The proposal fails to explain where 2MI/day of water pumped from old workings would be released; therefore the potential contaminating effects of this waste water cannot be assessed and should be assumed as a high risk to the environment and people's health, which is unacceptable.

The Indigenous cultural heritage assessment lacks credibility because it did not find a well-known cave art site in the proposed disturbance area for the Cullen Valley Mine.

Despite Coalpac's claim, it is clear that ecosystems cannot be replanted on farmland - especially after open-cut mining. No mature woodland is known to ever have established in mine rehabilitation. The proposed 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,

Ulrike Schnabel, Hazelbrook NSW, 2 May 2014