

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



28/4/14

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)**

As a bush regenerator conserving endangered ecological communities in Randwick, where I live, and Sun Valley in the Blue Mountains, where I own forested land, I am particularly concerned at the continued destruction of ecological communities in NSW by mining.

I object to these proposed modifications to the Invincible and Cullen Valley coal mines because they will destroy a large area of Grassy Box Woodland – a nationally endangered ecological community, many nationally endangered Clandulla geebung shrubs and 2,300 threatened Capertee Stringybark trees. This public forest and the pagoda rock formations should be fully protected from open-cut mining in a state conservation area for nature conservation, recreation and tourism.

The proposal will destroy the unique biodiversity, scenery and geological values associated with the pagoda landform complex. Its outstanding values, including a Planning Assessment Commission recommendation for an 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.

Despite Coalpac's claim, ecosystems cannot be replanted on land subjected to open-cut mining. No mature woodland has ever been established in mine rehabilitation. Moreover, the biodiversity offsets, whereby attempts are made to establish similar ecological communities on farmland elsewhere, are inadequate and futile, because the soils are bound to be unsuitable. The offsets cannot replace a Gardens of Stone Stage 2 reserve.

(I declare that I have made donations to the Greens in the last year, as they seem to be the only political party interested in nature conservation and the prevention of global warming.)

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Milford

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(41-49 The Chase, Sun Valley)

