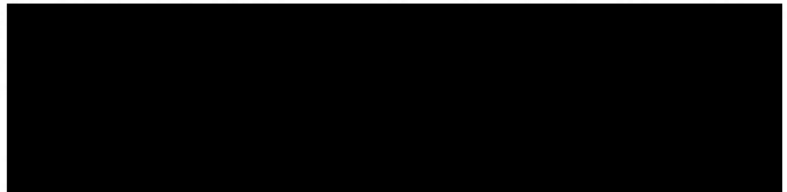




Murrumbo Station – Bylong



15 October 2015

The Hon Robert Stokes MP
Minister for Planning
c/- Mr Stephen O'Donoghue
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001



RE: Bylong Coal Project (SSD 14_6367) – Submission on the Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr O'Donoghue,

As a representative from Meteor Estates Pty Ltd, owners of the Murrumbo property at 9090 Bylong Valley Way, Bylong NSW 2849, we wish to record our formal objection to the Bylong Coal Project.

The Murrumbo property is a large-scale agricultural holding of 7,300 acres, which is located less than 2 km east of the Bylong Coal Project boundary.

The Murrumbo property is a significant agricultural enterprise which produces beef cattle, sheep, and crops such as lucerne and oats.

Consultation

We consider the consultation process undertaken by Kepco and its representatives has been inadequate.

Despite the very close proximity of our property to Bylong, we have not been afforded the opportunity for any individual consultation on the Project.

We have not been approached by Kepco to discuss the details of the project nor the results of the environmental studies.

We have owned the property for over 18 months and Kepco has made no attempts to meet with us.

Groundwater

Our main concern with the Bylong Coal Project is the potential impacts on groundwater supplies that are critical to our agricultural property.

The Murrumbo property is located in a volcanic crater which is characterised by volcanic Triassic intrusives and alluvial material.

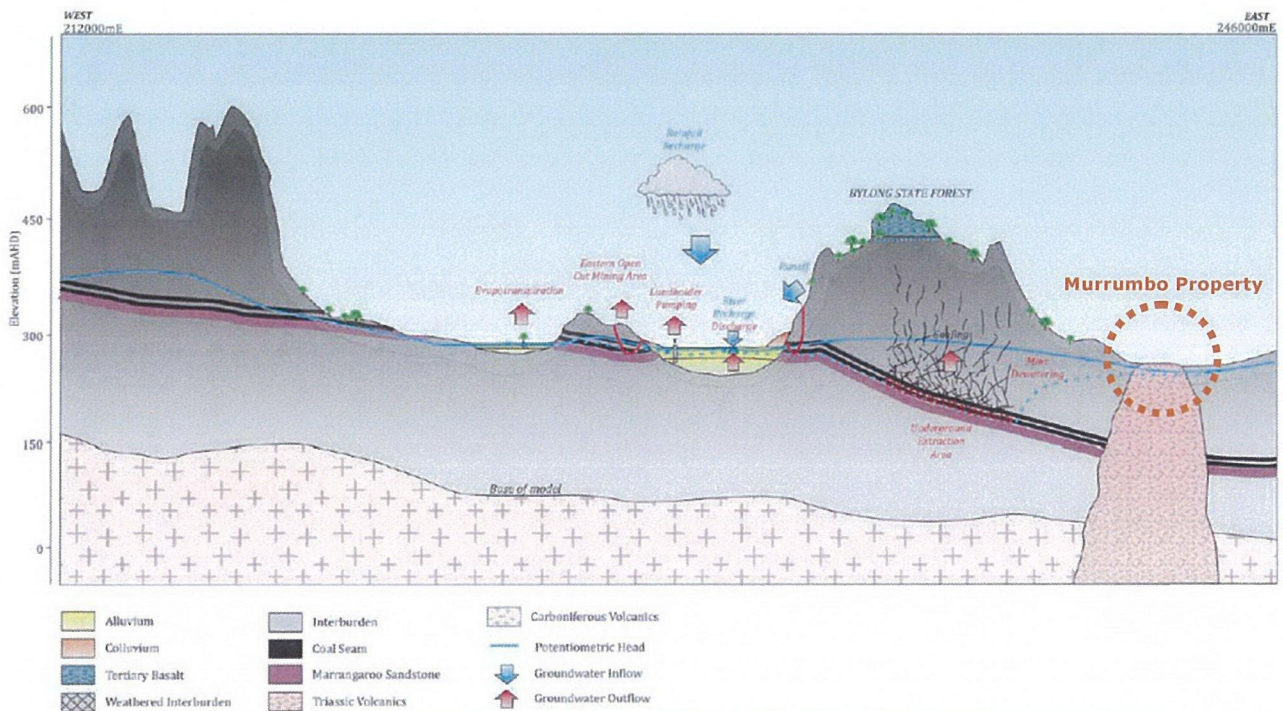
An artesian well is located on the property which provides a valuable and a principal water supply and is essential to the ongoing operation of our business.

The well on our property was not surveyed as part of Kepco's bore census and does not appear to be considered in the Groundwater Assessment included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

We are concerned about the reliability and accuracy of the groundwater results and the potential impacts on our property due to the following:

- ◆ The wells on our property do not seem to be included in the groundwater model.
- ◆ The schematic cross-section in Figure 7.21 of the AGE report shows depressurisation in the Triassic intrusions located at the Murrumbo property.
- ◆ It is not clear how well the model calibrates to groundwater levels at the Murrumbo property given the model does not include data from the bores on our property and does not appear to include any measured data from Triassic intrusives.
- ◆ The sensitivity analysis presented in Appendix F of the AGE report shows scenarios where depressurisation extends into our property and the calibration for the scenario meets the SRMS target. This presents significant uncertainty given the lack of data used by AGE to calibrate the model on our property.

We urge the Department to act with appropriate caution in reviewing the groundwater impacts presented by Kepco.



Schematic section showing conceptual hydrogeology

Figure 7.21

Bylong Coal Project (C110469)



Figure from Groundwater Assessment showing location of Murrumbidgee Property

Other Impacts on Murrumbo

In addition to the concerns outlined above, we are also concerned about impacts on the operation and value of our agricultural property associated with the following:

- ◆ Increased traffic on Bylong Valley Way, which is a key transport route for our property.

The increase of traffic on this road is significant (63%) and would include mine workers that have travelled significant distances and oversize vehicles that will affect the safety of other road users.

The Bylong Valley Way runs through our property, and we have operations on both sides of the road (staff and farming equipment are accommodated in homes and sheds on both side of the road). Hence they are frequently crossing the Bylong Valley Way and their safety may be impacted by increased traffic.

- ◆ Significant increase in rail noise due to the project along the Sandy Hollow Railway that passes through the property.
- ◆ The potential for operational noise impacts on the property.

We note there is some uncertainty about the impacts on our property as specific predictions are not included in the noise assessment and the noise contours are truncated in the east in the vicinity of the Sandy Hollow Railway.

- ◆ The recognised potential for the project to adversely impact labour supply for our property (as stated on page 112 of the social impact assessment "The Project has the potential to adversely impact labour supply in the non-mining sector in the MWRC LGA.").

Conclusion

We strongly believe that we are an affected landowner for the Bylong Project and we should have been consulted in accordance with the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with representatives of Kepco to discuss our concerns on the project, as this has not been offered by the company to date.

Any impacts to groundwater supplies or the value of our significant agricultural property should be adequately compensated. The scope of any impacts and required compensation should be properly understood prior to the project being determined.

Yours sincerely,

