

Planning Services
Dept of Planning & Environment
Sydney

31.10.2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**RE: Objection to KEPCO Proposed Coal Mining Project,
BYLONG VALLEY, NSW**

I wish to strongly object to the proposed Kepco Coal Mining Project in the Bylong Valley.

I am a Master of Environmental Science student at James Cook University, Townsville.

Prior to relocating to far North Queensland, I frequently visited the Bylong Valley, NSW an area that is renowned for its prime agricultural land and natural beauty with its stunning landscape.

The destruction of prime valuable agricultural land for the purpose of coal mining is very short sighted and tantamount to environmental vandalism.

I understand the coal proposed to be extracted by Kepco is to provide energy security to a foreign entity. What about consideration being given to ensuring the security for the local farmers who are experiencing an already uncertain underground water supply.

From my many visits over the years to the Bylong Valley, I have noted the frequently expressed concerns of farmers about the reliability of the underground water resource. Coal mining is known to use huge quantities of water. In this particular instance, this water should be kept available for agricultural purposes only.

Once the coal mining infrastructure is put in place, should the Kepco Coal Mining Project be permitted to proceed, what alternative water supply will the local farmers be able to turn to should their water supply be depleted. The damage will already have been done.

I urge the Government to seriously consider the future of farming in this area, and the maintenance of this beautiful natural landscape that is enjoyed by so many.

Yours sincerely,

Chloe Vandervord

