

REVIEW OF THE INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISSION

Submission from [REDACTED]

Charbon Colliery exhausted its coal reserves and closed down several years ago and the nearby Kandos Colliery did not have sufficient reserves of quality coal to be re-opened. So I am very familiar with how economically depressed the Rylstone-Kandos region is and its lack of employment prospects.

The planning refusal for the Kepco Bylong Mining Project is a huge lost opportunity for the regional communities of Kandos and Rylstone where the investment and jobs that would have been generated by this project are desperately needed.

Mining is important to me and my family, our community and NSW. I am now worried about my family's potential for employment. You are taking away our future by poor decision making and that is unfair.

More than 23,000 coal miners in NSW rely on coalmining for their livelihood. There are more than 7,000 local businesses across NSW that are supported by mining.

Coal mining is NSW's most valuable export commodity, with a value of more than \$20 billion.

We urgently need projects like the Kepco Bylong Mining Project to be approved to secure jobs and investment for local communities.

The Kepco Bylong Mining Project has the support of the local community, local MPs, local Council, local businesses and the Department of Planning Infrastructure and Environment - it is unfair that an unelected panel with no accountability has terminated potential employment and investment with no accountability to the NSW Government or its voters.

This project has taken seven years to be determined. These excessive delays show how broken the planning system is and place in jeopardy thousands of jobs and billions in investment for NSW.

The planning refusal has cost 650 jobs lost during construction and permanent full-time employment for 450 people during the project's operation across a 25-year mine life.

The federal government's tables of multiplier effects shows that more than three times as many indirect jobs are created for every person directly employed in a coal mine.

Coal is Australia's and NSW's most valuable export. The state has lost \$290 million in royalties by the planning refusal for this project.

Our national, state and local economies relies heavily on coal mining so coal mining benefits all Australians.

Coal from Australian coal mines has ideal qualities and it has fewer impurities, such as sulphur, than coal from other countries such as Asian countries. So the use of Australian coal is reducing pollution, such as sulphur dioxide, on a worldwide basis.

NSW needs to focus on the positive aspects of coal mining and its many benefits so as to not be distracted by ideologically driven anti-mining activists.

We should all be proud of what coal mining is doing and can do in future for Australia, NSW and the Rylstone-Kandos region.

The reports submitted for the Rylstone-Kandos mining project demonstrates its comprehensive coverage of all environmental issues. The benefits from the commencement of this coal mine are immense.

For all of these reasons I fully support the Kepco Bylong Mining Project.

There are several other refusals for coal mining projects that deserved full planning approval for the benefit of NSW and Australia.

This state needs strong leadership and you should be promoting these mining projects for the benefit of NSW.