

From: [REDACTED]
To: [NSW Productivity Feedback](#)
Subject: IPC Review
Date: Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:50:47 PM

To The Productivity Commissioner,

I am writing in my capacity as the President of the Mudgee Chamber of Commerce.

Our membership is disappointed and very disillusioned after the IPC rejected approval of the Kepco Bylong Valley Coal Project.

We are struggling to understand how this application, having been in 'the system' for over 7 years, was modified to meet the recommendations and requirements of the local community, Council and State bodies before it proceeded to the IPC for final determination with a recommendation for approval (with conditions) from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and numerous other government departments could be denied by the IPC.

What is the point of having a Department of Planning, Industry and Environment if their recommendations are not weighed appropriately in the decision.

From the outside looking in, the IPC are under resourced and ill-equipped to adequately determine the broad range of state significant developments that come under their remit.

Surely the role of a body such as the IPC is not to make a determination on the merits of a project but to ensure that there has been no misconduct or conflict of interest in the relevant government bodies decision making process.

At the very least a recommendation from the relevant government department should carry significant weight in the determination process. Unless the IPC can demonstrate that their recommendation is flawed the determination should follow the departments recommendation.

The decision on the Kepco Bylong Coal Project is an embarrassment to NSW and Australia. Regardless of the final determination, it is a disgrace that it has taken 7 years to reach. It provided false hope to a rural community in desperate need of jobs, cost the applicant (a sovereign country) hundreds of millions of dollars and made NSW look like a very risky place to invest. It will continue to be until there is a consistent and balanced planning process.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
President - Mudgee Chamber of Commerce