

SUBMISSION RE GARDENS OF STONE NP

MARGARET COVI, SECRETARY,

CONFEDERATION OF BUSHWALKERS NSW Inc,

Level 2/5 Wilson Street,

Newtown. 2042

MAY 28, 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Coalpac Consolidation Project: Application No: 10_0178

Rehabilitation of open-cut coal mines is incapable of restoring the original biodiversity and geodiversity of the Gardens of Stone Reserve Proposal. The 422 million cubic metres of rock and earth proposed to be mined is equivalent to three quarters of the volume of Sydney Harbour.

I support the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service's wish to add the Ben Bullen State Forest to the conservation reserve system as a matter of priority; it is an area with outstanding natural values.

I therefore object to this destructive mining proposal entirely for this and the following reasons:

- This mine would destroy the habitat of over 400 native plant species.
- Mining under the internationally significant rock formations known as 'pagodas' by any means, threatens them with partial or total collapse.
- The mining activity will devastate the landscape and spectacular scenery of the Ben Bullen State Forest.
- There will be a great loss of habitat for the native plants, animals and birds that live in the Ben Bullen State Forest.
- The community will be locked out from a very large part of public land for at least 21 years. I expect to be able to access public land freely.

- The project is likely to produce acid mine drainage that will impact on local streams for many decades. It may also produce elevated levels of heavy metals that will also kill aquatic life.
- I expect public land to be protected in perpetuity so I can enjoy it; not have it effectively sold off for companies to profit from.
- The Coalpac proposal would if approved make a large contribution to Australia's already high carbon footprint.
- I am concerned about the proponent's environmental management record. For example, at the Invincible mine, Coalpac was fined \$200,000 on one occasion for exceeding the coal production limits and on ***eleven other occasions*** for pollution incidents.

The organisation of which I am Secretary, The Confederation of Bushwalkers NSW Inc. or I have not made any donations of \$1,000 or more to any political party over the past two years.

M. Covi