



Ryde - Hunter's Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society

Member of:-Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.
Lane Cove Valley Conservationists.

**P.O. Box 2127
Boronia Park 2111**

Director General,
Department of Planning and Infrastructure,
Email: information@planning.nsw.gov.au
31 May, 2012.

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write to strenuously object to the Coalpac Consolidation Project 10_0178. We are a local conservation group active in the Ryde Hunters Hill area since 1966. Our Society was formed after a successful resident campaign to stop a land fill in the residential suburbs of East Ryde and Boronia Park. The site is now a Wildlife Refuge and contains an award winning Environmental Education Centre used by over 14,000 students each year.

This consolidation project, if approved, would cause irreparable damage to the very significant natural area called the Gardens of Stone. Coal mining activities in this area would remove this beautiful area from public access. It would result in the destruction of hundreds of plants vital for the habitat for many native fauna species including the lyrebird which nests in the area and a range of fauna species which are protected under the Commonwealth's threatened species legislation including the Tiger Quoll and Regent Honeyeater.

The importance of the State's biodiversity to current and future generations cannot be underestimated. An expanded open-cut mine in an area, which is nearby to the nationally listed Blue Mountains area which attracts many tourist every year, and in a gateway area to the state's central west, will have a major adverse impact on the local area. Not only will restoration of the area's original biodiversity and geodiversity be impossible, there will be major impacts on local waterways and possible heavy metal contamination of the Heritage-listed Grose Valley. The amenity of the town of Cullen Bullen will be particularly affected by the mining activity and the close proximity of the open cut mine will have serious impact on the health and learning ability of local school children.

We urge that this proposal to expand the open coal mine be rejected and that the Ben Bullen State Forest be included in the State's conservation reserve system as a matter of priority.

Yours sincerely,
Cathy Merchant, Secretary.