

Nick King
Acting President, Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange
PO Box 1582
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Coalpac Consolidation Project: Application No: 10_0178

It is impossible to restore the original biodiversity of the environment after an open cut coal mine has been decommissioned. As there will be a disturbance of rock and earth amounting to 422 million cubic metres, it is impossible to argue that the original environment of the Gardens of Stone can be restored to anywhere near its original condition.

We therefore object to this destructive mining proposal for this and the following reasons.

- ⤴ The community will be prohibited access to an iconic natural area for at least 21 years.
- ⤴ The mine would destroy the habitat of over 400 plant species.
- ⤴ Mining under the internationally significant rock formations known as the “pagodas” threatens them with partial or total collapse.
- ⤴ Mining will remove the habitat of the lyrebird and other bird and animal species in the area.
- ⤴ If approved the mine will remove all biodiversity from hundreds of hectares of public land within the Ben Bull state forest.
- ⤴ The project proposes to kill nearly 20 000 eucalypts.
- ⤴ The project is likely to produce acid mine drainage that will impact on the local streams for many decades. It may also produce elevated levels of heavy metals that will also kill aquatic life.
- ⤴ Biodiversity offsets are inadequate and cannot bring restore a destroyed unique environment.
- ⤴ The Coalpac proposal would contribute to 0.02 percent to world emissions and 1.3 percent of Australia's total carbon footprint, a relatively significant increase for a single project.
- ⤴ Coalpac's environmental assessment for this proposal inaccurately dismisses viable alternatives such as renewable energy and energy conservation that could make this project unnecessary.

Yours sincerely,

Nick King, acting president Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange (ECCO)