



17th May, 2012

Mining and Industry Projects

NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney NSW 2001

Re: Coalpac Consolidation Project: Application No: 10_0178

We write this submission as an expression of our concern to the stated subject "Coalpac Consolidation Project: Application No:10_0178.

We are conscious of the dangers and the risks to the future of NSW biodiversity if the Project is carried out. One of the key concerns of environmental damage in the world today, and in particular Australia, is loss of biodiversity. The rate of loss of species means we will be handing on to future generations, a much diminished world. Other species matter to our health and to the integrity of our environment and we simply cannot continue to deliberately destroy them. The Ben Bullen State Forest therefore needs to be protected from mining.

We entirely support the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service's proposal to add the Ben Bullen State Forest to the conservation reserve system as a matter of priority. The forest is a state treasure with precious natural flora and fauna consisting of 500 native plant species and 35 mammal species, 15 of which are threatened.

The very attitude that believes the sandstone pagodas of the area can be separated from their interconnected underlying sedimentary foundations displays an arrogance towards natural systems that is almost beyond belief. It appears to us that mining using destructive practices takes priority over other social and environmental values. This is a short sighted approach.

Therefore, we are asking this body to reject the Coalpac proposal for the following reasons:

- Open cut mining destroys in a few years the precious formations and eco-systems that have taken millions, even billions of years to evolve
- Rehabilitation of areas mined by open-cut methods is incapable of restoring even a small fraction of the original biodiversity and geodiversity of this important part of the Gardens of Stone Reserve Proposal.



- Mining sideways into the coal seams under sensitive pagoda rock formations with highwall machines is an unnecessary risk and yields less than three per cent of the coal proposed to be mined.
- It will destroy critically endangered Box Gum Woodland, as well as the wonderful Eucalyptus cannonii endemic to the area
- It will contribute to an increase in carbon emissions when we urgently have to decrease them
- It will have an impact on the health of the residents of nearby Cullen Bullen
- It will commandeer for exclusive use an area that should be set aside for the common good ie the protection of biodiversity and geodiversity.

Yours Sincerely,

Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice
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