

Community Newsletter

Issue 17 – February 2017

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The Bylong Coal Project is 100% owned by KEPCO Bylong Australia



A message from KEPCO Bylong Australia's Chief Operating Officer

KEPCO Bylong Australia (KEPCO) understands that this is a very difficult time for all those who were impacted by the recent fires. As major landholders in the Bylong Valley we realise the devastating impact of loss of property and livestock due to fire. We were pleased to provide 350 bales of hay and donate funds for fuel to the volunteer truck drivers delivering the hay to the local farmers affected by the fires, and we will continue to work with local community groups for ongoing support.

The Bylong Coal Project is now moving into a new phase, with the announcement that the Project has been referred to the NSW Planning and Assessment Commission (PAC) under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

The next step of the approval process is a public hearing at which the PAC will hear submissions on the Project. This is another opportunity for stakeholders to have their views on the Project considered.

The proposed Bylong Coal Mine represents a significant investment in the Mid-Western local government area, Central West and wider Upper Hunter region and your views are very important to us. I would strongly encourage supporters, suppliers and the

whole community to come along and have their say. Find out more about the hearing, and how you can participate, on page 2 of this newsletter.

In December last year we were pleased to inform ten local community service organisations that their application for up to \$3,000 through our Community Investment Fund had been successful. Many of these organisations are run by volunteers, and these grants will help them to provide vital services and support to our community. Read more on pages 3 and 4.

Our first round of funding for 2017 is now open for applications, and I encourage community groups of all types to apply. We look forward to continuing to work with the many local community service organisations, sporting clubs, family support services, schools and pre-schools that support our community.

We are delighted to be a sponsor of the Rylstone-Kandos and Mudgee Shows again this year. Our team will attend both shows. Please drop by to have a chat and find out more about KEPCO and the Project.

Yours sincerely,



Bill Vatovec
Chief Operating Officer
KEPCO Bylong Australia

APPROVALS UPDATE

The Minister for Planning has referred the Project to the PAC to conduct a review.

The PAC is an independent panel set up under section 23B of the EP&A Act to review and determine major developments and provide expert advice on planning and development matters. The panel is made up of experts in planning, architecture, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering, tourism, heritage, government and public administration.

As part of the review process, the Minister for Planning has requested the PAC hold public hearings to give interested parties an opportunity to present their views for consideration by the PAC.

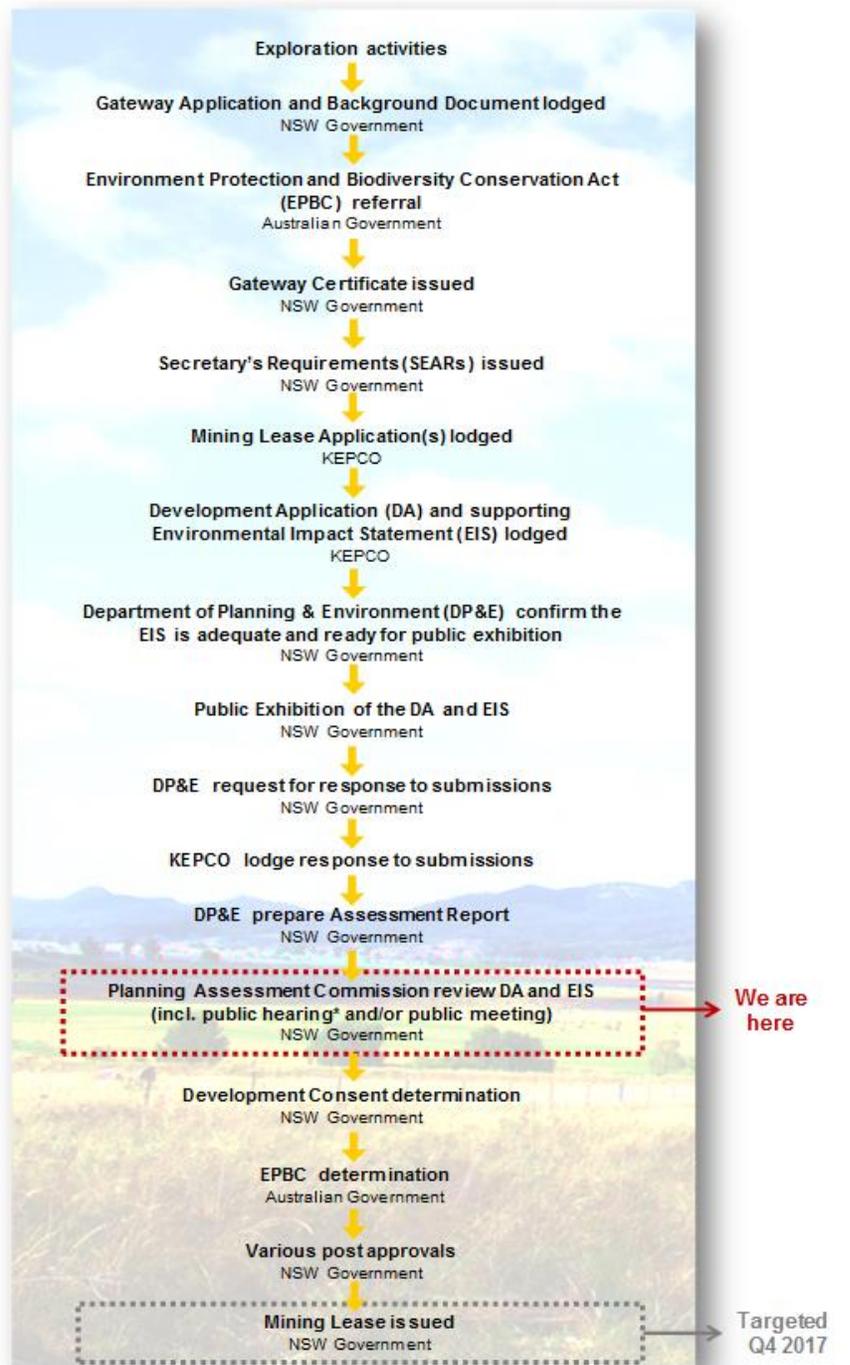
PAC Terms of Reference are available from [here](#). The PAC will announce dates for the hearing in due course.

Anyone may attend a public hearing, but if you wish to speak at the hearing you must register to do so before the advertised closing date.

If you would like to speak but have not made a submission on the Project to DP&E you may make a submission to the PAC before registrations close, using the submission form available at www.pac.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say

Individual speakers are generally allocated five minutes to speak, while groups are allocated 15 minutes.

The public hearing schedule will be available on the PAC's website after the close of registration to speak.



If you have any questions about the PAC process or about the Bylong Coal Project please contact our Community Liaison Officers on 1800 BYLONG or email bylong@worleyparsons.com.

FARM MANAGEMENT

KEPCO's agricultural operations continue to be an important part of the Project, and our farm manager is looking at a number of ways to increase productivity on KEPCO owned land to grow our beef cattle business in a sustainable way.

In recent months the farming staff have been busy upgrading the irrigation system on our Taworri property. Local company ThinkWater Mudgee has laid extensive new irrigation pipe as part of the upgrade. The new system will effectively maximise pasture growth and increase grazing capacity across the farming operations by providing additional finishing paddocks for stock, which will take pressure off the Wollar and Marapana grazing areas during the drier months.



Not for Profit organisation Thirsty Cow collecting hay from KEPCO farms for distribution to fire-affected farms.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

KEPCO is continuing exploration activities to support planning for the Project.

KEPCO has approval from the NSW Department of Industry's Division of Resources and Energy to drill 17 exploration boreholes to further refine our proposed mining activities.

The exploration will be confined to KEPCO owned land in and around Bylong Station and will involve the use of a drill rig and associated ancillary equipment. Drilling commenced in early February 2017 and will extend over a period of several months.

This year, KEPCO will be applying to DRE to renew its coal exploration authorisations. As part of its exploration authorities renewal, KEPCO will submit a proposed exploration program for the duration of the renewal period. KEPCO will prepare a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) relating to the proposed renewal exploration program for determination by DRE. The REF will seek approval for up to 56 exploration holes to be drilled between 2017– 2020. The proposed exploration will largely take place on KEPCO-owned land.

KEPCO IN THE COMMUNITY

KEPCO is committed to supporting and enhancing the community of the Bylong Valley and surrounding areas. We are pleased to sponsor the 79th annual Rylstone/Kandos Show to be held on February 24 and 25 and the Mudgee Show on March 3 and 4.

We will be staffing a Project information display at the Shows and encourage show-goers to drop by to have a chat and find out more about KEPCO and the Project



In addition to three rounds of funding offered to the community each year, for grants of up to \$3,000, we also provide special one-off grants for a small number of larger initiatives that can be shown to have a significant community benefit. Since 2011 we have been proud to allocate around \$300,000 to community initiatives including:

KANDOS SCHOOLS

Students at Kandos Public and High Schools will benefit from a beautiful new shaded play area and learn about cultural heritage and the environment at the same time, due to a combined \$60,000 grant from KEPCO's Community Investment Fund.

Work is now underway to upgrade the existing shared playground area into a multi-purpose garden space that will serve as a play zone, outdoor classroom and performance area. The revitalised area linking the two schools will include a sensory garden with a focus on sustainability and native flora, and a Wiradjuri yarnning circle to educate students on the region's Aboriginal culture and heritage.

BYLONG HALL

In 2016, KEPCO awarded more than \$18,000 to the Bylong Community Hall Committee to upgrade the hall and outside barbeque facilities.

Local building and maintenance company PropertyWorx, are currently undertaking the work which includes repairs to the halls kitchen and inside roof and ceiling.

The outdoor barbeque facilities which are very popular with locals, campers and passing visitors have been enhanced with users now being able to prepare meals on a stainless steel bench. An outdoor shelter will also be upgraded ensuring safety of users.

LIFESKILLS

Lifeskills Community Centre will benefit from significantly reduced electricity costs following a donation of more than \$13,000 for the purchase of a 10kW solar energy system from KEPCO's Community Investment Fund.

The Lifeskills Centre, in Oporto Road Mudgee, offers vital support services to people with disabilities, as well as providing therapeutic and recreational facilities for the whole community.

The rooftop solar energy system will free up funds previously spent on electricity for support services to people with disabilities, as well as reducing Lifeskills' total environmental footprint.



KEPCO Chief Operating Officer Bill Vatovec presents a cheque to HealthOne Rylstone for its 'Flippers' learn to swim program

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

In 2016, KEPCO increased the total amount allocated to each of the three rounds of community investment funding per year from \$20,000 to \$30,000. In December 2016, KEPCO was pleased to announce that ten organisations had received funding of up to \$3,000 each for a range of events and initiatives that will benefit the entire community. These are:

- Mudgee Rescue Squad Inc. for upgraded jaws of life equipment;
- Rylstone Public School, to expand its existing vegetable garden and provide a fun, hands-on space for children to learn about sustainability, environmental management and healthy eating;
- Kandos High School 2016 presentation day awards;
- HealthOne Rylstone's 'Flippers' learn to swim program;
- Rotary Club of Mudgee, to continue the club's successful, ongoing Mudgee Mathematical Minds Challenge;
- Cooks Gap Bush Fire Brigade, for the purchase of vehicle-mounted fire ground radios;
- Lake Windamere Under Canvas Camping Association's native garden project;
- Mudgee Arts Council Inc. to support the planned Mudgee Music Centre, and to help set up a dedicated website to facilitate connections between local music tutors and students;
- Mudgee Lions, toward the hire of inflatable playground equipment to provide school holiday entertainment for young people in the region; and
- Mid-Western Dance Festival Inc. toward the staging of its 2017 festival.

Applications for the next round of funding close on Friday, 3 March 2017. KEPCO invites community organisations to apply for a grant of up to \$3,000 for a specific project or purpose. Applications should be made using the application form available on the Project website www.bylongproject.com.au

CONTACT US:

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