

Community Newsletter

Issue 18 – April 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

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the KEPCO Bylong Coal Project. In our last newsletter we explained that the Project had been referred to the NSW Planning and Assessment Commission (PAC) for review under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The PAC has requested a site inspection prior to the public hearing to be held over the development application to ensure they have a full understanding of the Project.

As requested by the Minister for Planning, the PAC will hold a public hearing on the Project at Club Mudgee, on 11 and 12 May. The PAC has requested interested stakeholders register their interest in speaking at the PAC hearing.

The hearing is an important opportunity for community members to have their views on the Project considered, and we encourage all interested community members to attend.

The NSW Department of Environment & Planning (DP&E) released its Assessment Report for the Project in early April 2017, and recommended development consent conditions. You can read about this report, and find out how to participate in the PAC hearing, on page 2 of this newsletter.

You may be aware that KEPCO recently advertised for Expressions of Interest to take over running the Bylong General Store. We understand the store's importance in the Bylong Valley and we are looking for the right operator to maintain the community focus of the existing store, as well as upgrade the facilities and expand the products and services on offer.

KEPCO is very pleased to announce that ten community organisations will receive up to \$3000 each in our first round of funding allocations for 2017. We received more than 30 applications in this funding round from a wide range of groups that provide vital services and support to our community.

The successful applicants include the Mudgee Readers' Festival, the Harley Museum of NSW Inc., which is based in Kandos, Kanandah Retirement and the Henbury Sport & Recreation Club's annual Golf Open. We are proud to support the many organisations that contribute so much to our community. Read more on pages 3 and 4.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Vatovec

Bill Vatovec
Chief Operating Officer
KEPCO Bylong Australia

APPROVALS UPDATE

DP&E released its Assessment Report for the Project in April 2017.

Subject to its recommended conditions, DP&E concluded that the Project “achieves a reasonable balance between maximising the recovery of a recognised coal resource of State significance and minimising the potential impacts on surrounding land users and the environment as far as is practicable.”

DP&E’s recommended conditions of consent include a requirement that KEPCO establish a Community Consultative Committee to ensure that the views and concerns of the community are considered during the life of the Project, including input into all management plans required under the recommended conditions of consent. DP&E has also recommended a requirement for KEPCO to prepare and implement a Social Impact Management Plan, in consultation with Mid-Western Regional Council, the Community Consultative Committee and the local community to appropriately manage any potential social impacts associated with the Project.

The Assessment Report found that, while the Project would transform the local landscape from rural to farming/industrial setting for the mine life, in the longer term the project rehabilitation would return the site to a landscape generally similar to the existing setting.

The Assessment Report also found that amenity impacts associated with the open cut mining operations could be managed to an acceptable standard, and that the Project would comply with applicable air quality and blasting criteria at all privately-owned

residences. The report also noted that KEPCO has acquired almost all the properties likely to be affected by noise amenity impacts.

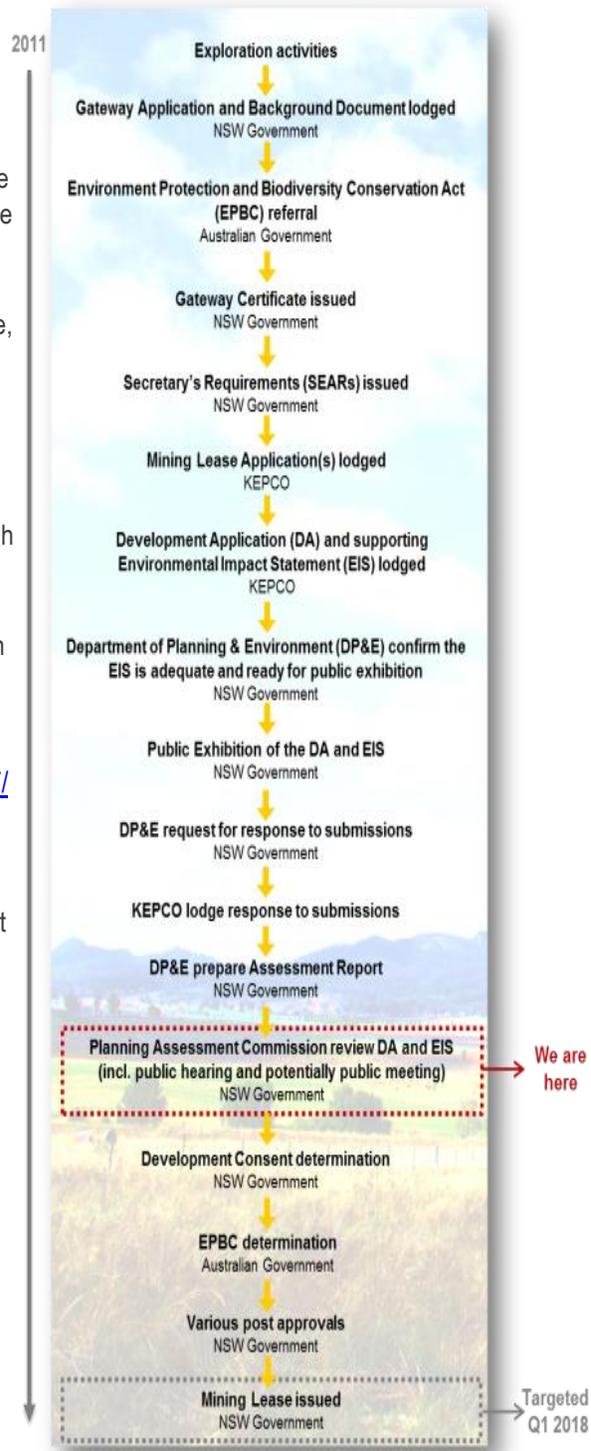
With respect to visual amenity, the Assessment Report found that while the Project would result in some changes to the visual landscape of the Bylong Valley, these impacts would be relatively localised, with project development areas generally screened from view from the Bylong Village, most privately owned rural residences and the Bylong Valley Way.

Finally, the Assessment Report acknowledged KEPCO’s commitment to minimise visual impacts, particularly through the backfilling of the open cut voids, promptly rehabilitating the emplacement areas, and avoiding subsidence impacts on key cliff lines visible from nearby locations.

For further details please refer to <http://www.pac.nsw.gov.au/projects/2017/02/bylong-coal-project>.

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

PROJECT STATUS



SITE ACTIVITIES

KEPCO is continuing exploration activities to support planning for the Project. The current exploration is confined to KEPCO owned land and involves a single drill rig and associated ancillary equipment.

KEPCO will be lodging a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) with the NSW Department of Industry, Division of Resources and Energy. The REF seeks approval for the 2017 – 2020 Exploration Program, involving drilling at 57 sites on primarily KEPCO owned land. KEPCO's Exploration Licences require that the company continue exploration activities within areas covered by the Exploration Licences. Pending approval, it is expected that the program will commence in the second half of 2017.

KEPCO is continuing with the extensive program of environmental monitoring that was initiated for the development of the Project's Environmental Impact Statement. The monitoring program includes surface water, groundwater and air quality, and extends over more than 100 sites on KEPCO owned and neighbouring properties. Data collected as part of the ongoing monitoring program will help with the implementation of environmental management plans throughout later project phases.

KEPCO's building contractors continue their work on the local houses and community buildings. This work is focusing on the renovation of houses for future occupation and the maintenance of buildings with assessed heritage value. KEPCO is also working with the Bylong Hall Committee to renew the hall facilities and ensure the structural integrity of the building for future use.

KEPCO IN THE COMMUNITY

KEPCO was pleased to be a sponsor of the Rylstone-Kandos and Mudgee agricultural shows earlier this year. Many people from around the region took the opportunity to drop in and speak with the Project team at our information stand.



The KEPCO Bylong Coal Project Community Engagement Team enjoying the Mudgee Show.

Many of those who visited our stand were keen to hear about potential employment opportunities at the proposed coal mine. A number of visitors were interested in learning about KEPCO's proposed water quality monitoring and management plan.

Our agricultural operations also attracted a lot of interest from visitors to our stand. If development consent is granted, KEPCO will maintain a continuous cattle operation in the Bylong Valley, throughout the planned 25 year mine life. At the completion of mining, the site will be rehabilitated in line with the recommended conditions to return it to a landscape similar to the existing setting.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

Earlier this month KEPCO was pleased to announce that ten hard working local community organisations would receive up to \$3000 each in this year's first round of grants from our Community Investment Fund.

The funding will go towards a range of initiatives or events that contribute to our strategic priorities of community wellbeing, health and education. The successful recipients are:

- Cancer Patients Foundation - funding for "Look Good Feel Better" workshops for cancer patients. CPF holds four workshops each year in Mudgee, helping more than 50 local people undergoing cancer treatment to boost their confidence and self-esteem in what is a very difficult time for themselves and their families.
- Mudgee Readers' Festival - KEPCO will sponsor this highly successful festival again this year. Our contribution will support an expanded program for children and young people, including author visits to local schools, a Sunday Storytime session and a teen book swap.



Photo: Amber Hooper. Mudgee Readers' Festival.

- Harley Museum of NSW Inc. – funding for Project 1912, in which local youth will work on the restoration of the oldest known Harley Davidson motorbike in Australia.
- Henbury Sport & Recreation Club – KEPCO will sponsor the Henbury Golf Open, a highlight of the local sporting calendar, which will be held on 22 October this year.

- Mid-Western Regional Council – funding to upgrade play equipment at Waratah Park, Kandos, providing a safe and appealing outdoor space for the enjoyment of local children and families, and visitors to the area.
- Country Womens’ Association (CWA), Kandos – funding to install and run a commercial grade kitchen in the existing CWA Kandos building as part of its Garden to Kitchen project. The kitchen will be available for hire to the Kandos and surrounding communities, for the preparation of home grown produce for sale at artisan markets and boutique outlets in the region, and to support catering opportunities for local events.
- St Matthew’s Catholic School, Mudgee – funding to purchase digital and wireless data loggers to support Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) learning.
- Mudgee High School – funding to upgrade Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) facilities and equipment, to improve accessibility for students with disabilities and encourage increased participation in sport across the entire student body.
- Mudgee Disability Support Service (MDSS) – funding for the “Dramability” stage production of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. Students from local drama schools work with MDSS clients on a five week program culminating in a sell-out gala performance at the Mudgee Town Hall. KEPCO’s contribution will help meet the cost of costumes, scenery and props.
- Kanandah Retirement – funding for specially designed safe seating in the newly established Mortimer Cottage Dementia Garden.

The garden features numerous plantings which will eventually provide a relaxing outdoor space for residents. KEPCO’s contribution will be used to provide safe and comfortable seating in the three shade pergolas which will soon be constructed in the garden.



KEPCO is funding safe seating at the Kanandah Retirement garden to provide an appealing respite for residents.

The fund received a large number of applications in Round 1 from a wide range of community organisations. KEPCO recognises the important contribution that such organisations make in our tight-knit community and we urge community organisations to continue to apply in future rounds.

KEPCO’s Community Investment Fund has now distributed more than \$330,000 to local projects and initiatives. KEPCO will allocate a further \$60,000 to community causes in 2017, with two more funding rounds to be held in June and October.

Applications for the next round of funding will open on Friday 2 June, 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

DROP-IN SESSIONS

The Bylong Coal Project Community Liaison Officers will be visiting locations near you in early May 2017, to answer questions about the Project. We encourage you to drop in for a coffee and an update on our progress, between 4.00pm and 6.00pm at:

Bylong

Date: Monday 1 May 2017

Location: Bylong Community Hall, Bylong Valley Way, Bylong

Time: 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Kandos

Date: Tuesday 2 May 2017

Location: Kandos Community Hall, 40-44 Angus Avenue, Kandos

Time: 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Mudgee

Date: Wednesday 3 May 2017

Location: CWA Hall, 48 Market Street, Mudgee

Time: 4.00pm – 6.00pm

CONTACT US:

For more information, please contact the Bylong Coal Project team:

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