



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Former Upper Bylong Catholic Church Cemetery**

KEPCO Australia is currently undertaking heritage assessments at the former Upper Bylong Catholic Church as part of the development of the proposed Bylong Coal Project. The Catholic cemetery at Upper Bylong has been identified as a known historic site, likely to be impacted by the proposed mine.

KEPCO Australia Chief Operating Officer, Bill Vatovec, said the company has commissioned an expert to investigate and assess the heritage of the burials within the grounds of the former Church and to gather information regarding the identity of any unmarked burials and the names of relatives and descendants of the deceased.

“At this stage, we are looking to make contact with descendants of those who are known to be buried at the site and also those who may have information about a number of unmarked grave sites which have been identified,” Mr Vatovec said.

Mr Vatovec said burials are located on KEPCO owned land which forms part of the proposed Bylong Coal Project and as such are likely to be required to be relocated in the future subject to Government approvals.

“We recognise this is a sensitive issue which needs to be worked through in discussion with the families. While construction of the Project is not anticipated to commence until 2017 we have started the process early to try and identify descendants so we can make appropriate arrangements to relocate these graves in consultation with the families,” Mr Vatovec said.

“The relocation of grave sites is not uncommon given the large number of private and unmarked burial sites occurring in rural areas. A number of graves were relocated at the Cadia Gold Mine Project near Orange using the same process which we have put in place. There are strict Government guidelines in place regulating the process and the consultation we are embarking on to identify and contact descendants is the first step in the process.

“We have already made contact with a number of relatives who have come forward and KEPCO is committed to meeting all requirements in place and working closely with identified relatives throughout this process,” Mr Vatovec said.

Those with information about the burials at the former Upper Bylong Catholic Cemetery should make contact with the Project on 1800 295 664.