



RURAL AMENITY

KEPCO Bylong Australia (KEPCO) is committed to preserving the agricultural identity of the Bylong Valley and to being a good neighbour. The mine has been designed to minimise amenity impacts, including in relation to noise and air emissions, traffic movements and visual disruptions which have the potential to influence the agricultural and environmental values of the area. The Bylong Coal Project’s (the Project) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supplementary information addresses each of these aspects in detail and proposes management measures to preserve the rural amenity of the Bylong Valley.

The Project is proposed to be developed in a rural setting, with a small number of privately owned residences located on agricultural properties within and surrounding the Project boundary. The residences within the Project boundary are predominantly owned by KEPCO, with the nearest private residences being located to the north-west of the Project.

Maintaining rural amenity and minimising visual, noise, blasting and air quality impacts have been key considerations in the design of the Project.

VISUAL AMENITY

KEPCO recognises the scenic setting within which the Project is located and has given specific consideration during planning and design to minimising the visual impacts of the Project on sensitive viewing locations. Specific mine planning decisions and mine plan refinements made in this regard include:

- Reducing the open cut mining footprint and limiting the duration of open cut mining activities
- Siting mine infrastructure between existing topographic features to achieve screening from sensitive external viewing locations, particularly in the main valley along the Grow ee River
- Planning for the implementation of progressive rehabilitation during open cut mining operations to reduce the visual effects of the overburden emplacement areas
- Retaining iconic high topographic points in the local landscape setting.

Tree cover and topography provide visual screening of the Project from the Bylong Village, resulting in a low visual impact from this location.

A number of rural residences are located to the south of the Project; however, the closest of these are KEPCO-owned properties. Localised screening by intervening topography and

woodland vegetation will eliminate views of the open cut mining areas and overburden emplacement areas from private residences further to the south.



Looking west from Bylong Station to the Project site

NOISE

The Noise and Blasting Impact Assessment prepared for the EIS and supplementary information indicate that the most significant noise-generating activities during construction are likely to include rail loop earthworks, installation of mine infrastructure, the upgrade and realignment of Upper Bylong Road and the establishment of open cut mining areas. Increased traffic noise will also be generated along Bylong Valley Way, Wollar Road and Upper Bylong Road at peak construction.

KEPCO has specifically made refinements to the Project’s mine plan to minimise noise impacts to private residences.

To manage the noise impacts from the construction and operational activities, KEPCO will implement a *Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan* and *Noise Management Plan* which will outline a number of mitigation strategies and



monitoring mechanisms. Management measures include use of portable noise screens, maximising offset distances from noise sources, use of noise controls such as mufflers, and the use of new technology for vehicle reversing alarms instead of traditional tonal alarms.



BLASTING

The Noise and Blasting Impact Assessment and subsequent blast modelling considered the potential vibration impacts on private residences in the vicinity of the Project.

It is expected that a maximum of six blasts per week will be undertaken during open cut mining operations for the Project.

Blast modelling indicated that no exceedances of the relevant criteria are predicted for private residences.

KEPCO has made a commitment to undertake condition surveys of private residences (on request), sensitive heritage sites, rock features and sensitive infrastructure prior to blasting activities. In order to manage potential blast impacts, a *Blast Management Plan* will be developed to consider specific mitigation measures for potentially impacted sites, including designing the blasts to meet vibration limits, protocols for complaints response, establishment of blast exclusion zones, regularly reviewing blast design, and undertaking blast monitoring activities.

AIR QUALITY

During construction and operation of the Project, the greatest potential for air quality impacts will be generated from dust associated with activities such as vegetation clearing, bulk earthworks, haulage along unsealed roads, wind erosion, and blasting. To assess the potential impact of these activities, an Air Quality Impact Assessment and subsequent studies have been completed to assess potential air quality impacts at private residences in the vicinity of the Project. The Project will implement proven dust control measures to minimise air quality impacts.

The findings of the assessment indicate that no private residences are expected to experience any exceedances of the relevant air quality criteria, as prescribed by the Government.

Throughout the duration of the Project, KEPCO is committed to leading practice dust management through the use of a real-time and proactive air quality management system. This system enables mine operators to respond to the potential for unacceptable air quality impacts through the use of a network of real-time monitors.

KEPCO will also modify work practices to limit disturbance activities during periods of high winds, undertake progressive rehabilitation to minimise exposed areas, implement water suppression on exposed surfaces and on coal stockpiles, and moisten exposed coal being loaded into train wagons.

