



Community Newsletter

Issue 30 – September 2020

A message from KEPCO Bylong Australia's Chief Operating Officer

Since KEPCO's May Newsletter we have seen significant development with the COVID-19 pandemic. When Australia thought it has turned the corner, we now find ourselves severely impacted by a second COVID wave that has dramatically effected Victoria and to a lesser extent NSW and the other states and territories. We are now subject of restrictions of movement that prevent some of us from what are considered normal daily activities including crossing state borders. KEPCO is cognisant of the impact on communities and families and particularly those who have been separated from loved ones because of restrictions on movements. This is the harsh reality of this pandemic and we can only hope that normality can be achieved in the not too distant future. On behalf of KEPCO Bylong Australia Pty Ltd I would like to express our best wishes to all our stakeholders during this difficult time in the hope that everyone has remained safe and well. In particular I would like to recognise all those in the frontline of managing this pandemic who selflessly put others before themselves.

A hearing for the judicial appeal lodged by KEPCO in the NSW Land and Environment Court was held between the 24 and 26 August 2020 before Justice Pain. Justice Pain has now reserved her decision for which KEPCO does not expect an outcome for possibly another two to three months. Notwithstanding, KEPCO remains committed to the Bylong Coal Project and the economic and social benefits that it will bring to the Mid-Western Region and particularly the centers of Mudgee, Kandos and Rylstone as well as the broader benefits to the State of NSW should the Project proceed.

The Project remains on hold as far as site activities are concerned with no physical exploration or environmental monitoring programs planned for the foreseeable future and until such time as the outcome of the judicial review in the Land and Environment Court is known. After that time KEPCO will determine its next steps for the Project. KEPCO's agricultural activities will continue as usual under the supervision of the Farm Manager.

In the meantime, KEPCO staff have been busy attending to Project administrative matters relating to the administration of the tenements.

In our last newsletter we advised of temporary reduced trading hours for the Bylong General Store. KEPCO has since been advised that the Bylong General Store is back to its normal trading hours of 8am to 6pm, 7 days a week.

KEPCO is happy answer questions, distribute further information or meet with stakeholders in the region at a suitable time.

Please stay safe and well during this difficult time. KEPCO will continue to keep its stakeholders informed as to the status of the Project by way of future Newsletters.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Vatovec - Chief Operating Officer

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