



Protect the Gardens of Stone

“Say NO to open cut mining!”



Saturday 14th May, 2011

Media Release: For immediate release

“Protest calls for rejection of open cut mine proposal”

More than 120 people turned out to protest against the proposed expansion of a massive open cut coal mine into pristine bush land north of Lithgow.

The expansion of coal-mining operations at Cullen Valley and Invincible mines into the Ben Bullen State Forest by Coalpac Pty Ltd would destroy more than 1000 ha of forest; threaten pagodas and impact on numerous animals and plants, including threatened species.

The area is a popular destination for residents and tourists and is a spectacular example of giant pagodas scattered amid forest otherwise known as the Gardens of Stone.

The protest was addressed by leaders of local and State environmental and community groups and Cate Faehrmann, MLC for the Greens.

“The iconic Gardens of Stone is the sort of area that should be off limits to open cut mining. Coal mining has caused multiple cliff collapses in parts of the Blue Mountains,” says Tara Cameron, Vice President of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

“History shows that rehabilitation is woefully inadequate and totally incapable of restoring the original biodiversity and geodiversity of an area.

“Supporters of our campaign to have Coalpac’s proposal rejected say no to open cut mining as a small short term gain would be made at the expense of this beautiful landscape being lost forever.”

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