



Protect the Gardens of Stone

“Say NO to open cut mining!”



Tuesday 21st June, 2011

MEDIA RELEASE: For immediate release

“Community concerns remain over Coalpac’s consolidation proposal”

Coalpac Pty Ltd recently announced changes to its proposed ‘Coalpac Consolidation Project’ as a result of stakeholder engagement. According to some local residents, significant concerns still remain. In response, environment groups have created a vehicle for people to voice their concerns directly to decision makers.

Coalpac Pty Ltd recently dispatched Coalpac Consolidation Project, Newsletter No. 2, May 2011 informing recipients of changes to its project proposal after holding “discussions with a number of regulatory and community stakeholders to understand issues of concern in relation to the Project.”

“Feedback we’ve received tells us there are some very legitimate worries still lingering for locals, especially those located at Cullen Bullen,” says Lachlan Garland, President of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

“The open-cut mining boundaries were initially mapped-out to be quite close to the village. Coalpac’s new map shows its been moved back a bit and has been replaced by underground mining; but overall, the volume of mining within close proximity has in fact increased.”

“There are obviously concerns for residents about property damage from blasts, including to the relocated Catholic Church. Residents are also well aware that no one is, or can safeguard the value of their home once the town is virtually surrounded by an open-cut coal mine,” says Justin McKee, Gardens of Stone Campaigner.

“Land and property was purchased in this area well before the Coalpac Consolidation Proposal was thought up; location specific investments were made by some families because of the surrounding bush areas. This will all disappear around them.

“Locals have seen first-hand how open-cut mining has scarred parts of their local environment and acknowledge that rehabilitation can’t really put it right. Over 1088 hectares of mainly old-growth forest and wildlife habitat will disappear if Coalpac’s proposal is approved.

“For the last 100 years, the majority of mining has been underground. Having this open-cut mine would place the township within a quarry. A lot of residents are miners themselves but don’t wish to live in a dust-pit worrying about the health of their children. What guarantees can Coalpac provide regarding their health?

“Here we see Coalpac reporting its ‘solutions’ to community concerns, but many residents remain dissatisfied. As a result, we have created a vehicle for people to write directly to the NSW Premier, Ministers and the local M.P. We give Coalpac permission here to publicise this to all residents.”

Concerned residents are invited to write letters at <http://nccnsw.org.au/content/protect-gardens-stone> or by post to Justin McKee C/- P.O. Box 29, Wentworth Falls, 2782 for forwarding.

Media Contacts:

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Coalpac’s May 2011 newsletter: <http://cetresources.com/images/stories/files/newsletters/may11.pdf>

Coalpac’s Nov 2010 newsletter: <http://cetresources.com/images/stories/files/newsletters/nov10.pdf>

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