



Protect the Gardens of Stone

“Say NO to open cut mining!”



19th December 2011

MEDIA RELEASE: For immediate release

“Council must prioritise public meeting”

In Lithgow City Council’s last meeting for 2011, it was revealed the Cullen Bullen meeting on the Coalpac Consolidation Project is to be delayed until the proposal is on public exhibition. Environment groups are calling for Council to hold the meeting earlier.

Lithgow City Council resolved to host a public meeting on the ‘Coalpac Consolidation Project’ for the people of Cullen Bullen, NSW on the 22nd of August 2011. The controversial, open-cut mining project proposed by Coalpac Pty Ltd, will surround the town of Cullen Bullen in every direction.

“Four months on, we discover Council’s planning to hold the public meeting at the very end of the planning process” says Justin McKee, Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

On the 12th December 2011, Lithgow City Council resolved to call the public meeting when Coalpac Pty Ltd’s revised submission has been deemed adequate for public exhibition by the Department of Planning.

“At this point in the planning process, the Director General advertises the environmental assessment documentation and calls for public comment. There is typically a 30day window for people to get their submissions in; this is not the time to start advertising the *first* public meeting. The dramatic changes the project would bring are looming in the minds of residents today!

“The residents of Cullen Bullen need to hear from a panel of independent experts, as well as Coalpac, sooner than Council proposes. They are entitled to a fair and just forum that presents unbiased information and answers the questions they have now.

“This is a town that has been in existence for over a hundred years; Coalpac seeks to place it within a quarry and have the residents live in a dust bowl. There is no prettying up the reality of what the project proposes.

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society has presented its concerns to all Councillors of the Lithgow City Council and its General Manager.

Media contacts:

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To see Item 5 agenda item for Lithgow City Council meeting 12th December 2011:

http://archive.lithgow.nsw.gov.au/agendas/11/111212_Agenda.pdf

NOTICE OF MOTION - 12/12/11 - COALPAC CONSOLIDATION & PROJECT - PUBLIC MEETING IN CULLEN BULLEN - COUNCILLOR M F TICEHURST

Background:

In a letter to the General Manager and Councilors of Lithgow City Council, the Blue Mountains Conservation Society tabled the recommendation presented below.

It is our recommendation that:

- > Lithgow City Council's public meeting occur **before** the Director-General exhibits the environmental assessment documentation, but not during the peak holiday period of 23rd December 2011 and 8th Jan 2012.*
- > water, environment, air quality and pollution experts independent of Coalpac sit on the panel;*
- > a record of the meeting be kept that reports on all matters raised;*
- > matters arising from the meeting be dealt with promptly; and*
- > any information requested from members of the panel that could not be provided at the meeting be provided promptly and be made available to the public.*