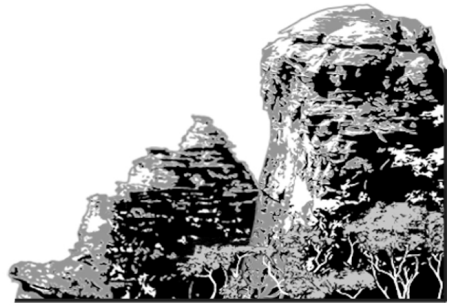




Protect the Gardens of Stone

“Say NO to open cut mining!”



Thursday 17th November 2011

MEDIA RELEASE: For immediate release

“Society launches advertising campaign against open-cut”

In response to community concerns and growing opposition to the controversial ‘Coalpac Consolidation Project’ proposal, the Blue Mountains Conservation Society has launched an advertising campaign calling for the Project to be stopped in its tracks.

“Coalpac Pty Ltd has put forward a large, open-cut mining project proposal to the NSW Government. If it gets approved Coalpac will effectively be getting permission to place the people of Cullen Bullen, NSW in a quarry and carve up a public forest; that’s an unconscionable act by anyone’s standards,” says Justin McKee, Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

“The list of groups that oppose the project is getting longer, the most recent to join is NSW Labor.

“In continuing to represent those who oppose, we have launched an advertising campaign comprising of billboards, newspaper ads, posters and flyers calling for the ‘Coalpac Consolidation Project’ to be stopped in its tracks.

“Concerned locals inform us they don’t feel they have enough information to hand that is easy to understand. We trust that what we have put forward is helpful to people in the area.

“Coalpac’s proposal presents a very dark and dusty future for the residents of Cullen Bullen. The open-cut mining will rip up every plant and tree in its path and it will release large amounts of dust into the atmosphere.

“Coalpac seeks to lock everyone of us out from four-wheel driving, bushwalking and camping in a huge part of the Ben Bullen State Forest. Our campaign encourages people to play their part in protecting their healthy outdoor lifestyle and say ‘NO!’ to open-cut mining.

“We believe it is in the best interest of everyone to keep mining in this area restricted to responsible, low-impact, underground mining. Imagine driving up the Castlereagh Highway from Lithgow to Mudgee and seeing Cullen Bullen surrounded for kilometres by a dust-spewing, open-cut mine. Tourists will keep on driving, negatively impacting on tourism potential.

“Coalpac’s project will only be around for 21 short years, conserving this iconic area can provide the Lithgow, Oberon, Blue Mountains community with economic tourism benefits for hundreds of years,” says Justin McKee.

Media Contact: Justin McKee - 0404 824 020