

NSW Department of Planning recommends refusal for Coalpac open cut coal mine

On 4 October 2013, the Coalpac open-cut coal mine in Ben Bullen State Forest was recommended for refusal due to significant rock formation and biodiversity impacts.

The NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure issued this media release. It begins –

"The Department of Planning and Infrastructure has recommended that the Coalpac Consolidation Project near Lithgow should not be approved in its current form.

A final decision will now be made by the independent Planning Assessment Commission (PAC), made up of different panel members to those who conducted a review of the project last year.

The department's assessment found that the open cut mining operations as currently proposed would be incompatible with the natural setting which includes unique rock formations and sensitive and important biodiversity areas."

The Department's assessment report and recommendation can be found here. See the Director General's Assessment Summary here. A map that accompanied the Department's media release can be found here.

This is great news in our efforts to Protect the Gardens of Stone. See our media release welcoming the decision.

The Department's decision follows a recommendation by a State Government Planning Assessment Commission that "the project should not be approved" and that "the benefits of the project are substantially outweighed by the breadth and potential magnitude of the impacts". (December 2012)

Next steps- Protect the Gardens forever

The final decision on the Coalpac open cut mine will now be made by a second Planning and Assessment Commission. Although it is unlikely that the current mine will be approved, it is possible. Coalpac may also choose to re-apply to mine a smaller area and the battle will begin again. We need to be ready to comment when the PAC meets.

Importantly, **we need to remove the threat of open cut mining in the future by** making Ben Bullen State Forest a State Conservation Area NOW

ACT NOW



Sign this [online form letter](#) to the NSW Premier, circulate it to your email networks and 'share' it on your facebook page.

<http://nccsw.org.au/content/protect-gardens-stone>

