



Protect the Gardens of Stone

“Say NO to open cut mining!”



Monday 26th March 2012

MEDIA RELEASE: For immediate release

“Coalpac must set the record straight”

Coalpac Pty Ltd has falsely blamed the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for delays to expanding its operations, highlighting a mindset by mining companies that lodging an application guarantees future business, potentially misleading the market and employees during the application process.

Statements reported from Coalpac in the media [24th March 2012](#) allege that the Department of Planning and Infrastructure are to blame for the delays in having a decision made on its ‘Coalpac Consolidation Project’.

“Such statements are utterly false,” says Justin McKee, Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

“Coalpac Pty Ltd fails to acknowledge its biggest obstacle in this planning process is itself! Coalpac set a new precedent for ‘botched applications’ when the Department of Planning & Infrastructure had to announce in a media statement six months ago it couldn’t put Coalpac’s Environmental Assessment on display because it had failed on just about every account!”

[The Department stated](#) in September 2011: *the EA did not adequately address a number of issues including the project’s potential impacts on biodiversity; natural, historic and Aboriginal cultural heritage; noise and air quality; and groundwater.*

Mr McKee says “Due to its own inadequacies, Coalpac delayed the process itself on two levels. If Coalpac got it right in the first instance, the review process would’ve been a lot quicker and the Department wouldn’t have needed to review it a second time! Coalpac should be transparent about this to its employees, the media and the local community.”

“The Department should be calling for a public apology from Coalpac Pty Ltd. The allegations against it are false and misleading!”

“Coalpac also implies the Department’s review process will cause critical job losses for its employees. Any jobs coming to an end would occur naturally as existing projects approach completion and should have been anticipated by the CEO and relayed to its employees well in advance. Anything less would be a case of bad management.”

“Neither the Department, nor any government agency, has reported that the ‘Coalpac Consolidation Project’ has been approved; therefore Coalpac is in no position to be advertising or spruiking new work opportunities. I hope this isn’t a case of building up false hopes for jobs for people when those jobs are not guaranteed, either now or in the future.”

“The applications of Coalpac and every other mining company are required to go through stringent, lengthy planning processes because of what they propose: To irrevocably change the landscape and social fabric of the communities in which they propose to operate.”

Media Contacts: Justin McKee 0404 824 020

Department of Planning & Infrastructure statement ‘Coalpac EA adequacy 0809’: <http://bit.ly/GNAY9T>
Lithgow Mercury article ‘More local jobs at risk’: <http://bit.ly/GNxo0U>

C/- Blue Mountains Conservation Society – P.O. Box 29 WENTWORTH FALLS NSW 2782