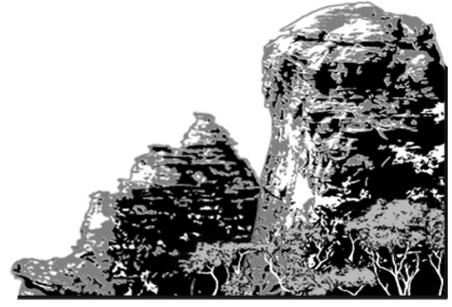




Protect the Gardens of Stone

“Say NO to open cut mining!”



Thursday 5th April 2012

MEDIA RELEASE: For immediate release

“Mining company prioritises coal over kids”

Coalpac Pty Ltd's controversial Consolidation Project will place Cullen Bullen residents and children attending Cullen Bullen Public School who are at increased risk, within hundreds of metres of dust and other harmful particles. This will create unacceptable health risks for this community, obliging decision makers to reject the application entirely.

The engulfing 40km perimeter of Coalpac's Consolidation Project will come to within hundreds of metres of Cullen Bullen Public School. If approved, school children will be exposed to large volumes of dust and other small, potentially harmful particles, the most alarming of which will be exposure to particulate matter 2.5.

An Australian Medical Journal article released 19 September 2011, *The mining and burning of coal: effects on health and the environment* by W.M. Castleden et al, reveals: “An Australian review of air pollution by Kjellstrom and colleagues summarises the effects of particle exposure on health... the smallest particles, particulate matter 2.5, are the most damaging”.

The journal also reports there is compelling evidence that coalmining and the burning of coal is harmful to health: “Coalmining can change the lifestyle and character of a community” and “Medical practitioners in coalmining areas have reported that increases in asthma, stress and mental health have become more common”.

“The potential health impacts from the Coalpac Consolidation Project are significant, particularly from airborne dusts carrying the smaller and less visible particulate matter 2.5 that is created during the open-cut mining process. This will place the whole community at an increased risk of respiratory and cardiovascular illness. Given these very real risks, the government should apply the precautionary principle by ruling out open-cut mining in such close proximity to Cullen Bullen,” says Dr Richard Stiles, local medical practitioner.

“Who would choose to live in a town almost completely ringed by an open-cut mine?”

Tara Cameron of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society states “As a teacher and a parent, I am deeply concerned about how close the open-cut mine would be to Cullen Bullen Public School. The health of our children far outweighs Coapac's needs. We implore our State's decision makers to heed the wishes of local residents and Lithgow City Council by keeping Coalpac's mining projects underground.”

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Media Images: <https://rcpt.yousendit.com/1448009750/0c47a81a14a949f047d939b46e27c8ff>

- View further information about the Coalpac Consolidation Project: <http://bit.ly/HLXwxz>
- Download ‘*The mining and burning of coal: effects on health and the environment*’: <http://bit.ly/sCq8Q1>