

# Tim Duddy

## Independent Candidate for the Upper Hunter

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10 February 2011

The Hon. Tony Kelly, MLC  
Level 34 Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister Kelly,

I have become aware of a request recently made by the Bylong Valley Protection Alliance for the government to commit to an expert water study for the Greater Bylong Valley area. The request also asked that no further mining leases or exploration licenses be issued until such time as this study is undertaken.

I am writing in to express my full support for the proposal and request that you use your powers as planning minister to support this proposal.

I recently attended the community and stakeholder forum in Gunnedah held by the Department of Planning and attended by you. The scoping paper released in relation to this process clearly identifies water management as an issue in the Western coal resource area. It is inconceivable that any strategy can be developed to deal with water management issues in the area until hydrological study undertaken. Furthermore, given the limited information available it is inappropriate that any new coal or gas development occur prior to a science based understanding the water resources of the area.

Water is the lifeblood of many communities across the district including in the Bylong Valley. It is simply not appropriate that mining be allowed to damage or destroy the water resources that have sustained communities in these areas for generations.

I implore you to take note of the very detailed arguments made by the BVPA. I support their proposal wholeheartedly and will take every action available to me to see that this study is undertaken before further coal development occurs.

Sincerely,

Tim Duddy