

# Former Governor-General backs Bylong Valley's call

Former Governor-General Michael Jeffery has supported calls by the Bylong Valley Protection Alliance (BVPA) for a full, independent study of hydrology of the Upper Goulburn River Catchment before any further decisions are taken regarding mining in the area.

Major General Jeffery is chairman of Outcomes Australia, whose Land and Water project is investigating the best interventions for regional and sustainable man-

agement of Australia's land and waterways.

Mid-Western Regional Council has also supported the BVPA's call, voting unanimously in favour of a motion brought forward as a matter of urgency by Cr John Webb and seconded by Cr Peter Shelley.

Others who have supported the BVPA so far include the Mid-Western Community Action Network, independent candidate for Upper Hunter Tim Duddy, Federal Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon, Greens

candidate for Upper Hunter Chris Parker and Greens MLC Cate Faehrmann.

BVPA interim vice-president Stuart Andrews said the support was heartening.

"It's the 21st Century and everyone knows the way things should be done - and that's having one complete view of ground and surface water and managing it as one resource," he said.

"It's time to stop flying half blind and to start doing things properly."