

Coal alliance boycott

Australian Coal Alliance members boycotted the information afternoon hosted by Kores Australia Pty Ltd on Thursday, 17 November.

Kores is the South Korean owned mining company who plans to mine beneath the Wyong water catchment valleys.

Members waved placards and shouted slogans in support of their campaign to protect the Central Coasts' water catchment.

The majority of people who visited the information afternoon were ACA members, anxious to asking the mining company questions.

ACA member Ron Sokolowski said "I came away very disappointed."

"A mining company representative told me that subsidence will occur, and that they are basing their modelling at what happens in similar geological structures. They then told me that what happens there will happen here."

Arthur McCarrol said "I asked the mining company about our aquifers (sub surface water) and was told that they (Kores) had employed a consultant. But they couldn't tell me if they were operating in the valleys. In fact they didn't tell me anything positive at all."

The water catchment streams are 68% fed by the underground water systems. Subsidence from longwall coal mining has the potential to breach the underground water, causing it to disappear forever.

Kores will not confirm that their planned mine will not an adverse impact of the water supply.

At a recent community liaison committee meeting the mining company representative, Mr Peter Smith said that they (Kores) had developed a mine plan to minimise the impacts of subsidence. There was still no guarantee that the proposed mine would not interfere with the water.

Mr Smith then said that mining subsidence will always have an impact on the surrounding environment.

Throughout Australia, longwall coal mining has had a devastating impact on water system and the environment. Despite the rhetoric from the mining company that the geology is different, their pantomime of excuses is just that - excuses. Their interests are dollar-driven and they will stop at nothing to get it.

If the Koreans are allowed to mine beneath our water catchment, all the Central Coast community will receive in return is electrical goods, white goods and motor cars. A high price to pay for our drinking water!

The NSW Scientific Committee has listed longwall coal mining as a 'key threatening process' under **Schedule 3** of the **Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995**.

