



Kazuhisa Nakano
President
Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd.
1-1 Marunouchi 3-chome,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8321, Japan

17th July 2012

Dear Mr Nakano,

I am writing on behalf of the Northern Inland Council for the Environment, a conservation group based in north-west New South Wales in Australia.

We also have the support of the Kiko Network who are providing a point of liaison for us in Japan.

We want to raise our concerns with you about the proposal of your subsidiary company, Idemitsu Australia Resources Pty Ltd, to expand fourfold the Boggabri Coal Mine which is located in our region.

The expansion will result in more than 1,300 hectares of forest been cleared for open-cut coal mining - forest which is currently home to Koalas.

We have attached a map of the proposed mine, developed by the company, which shows that it will expand out to destroy forests where the Koala has recently been recorded living in gum trees.

As you are no doubt aware, the Koala is a vulnerable species and is considered an iconic species in Australia. Japanese nationals flock to our country to see the Koala in its natural habitat.

Your subsidiary mine proposal puts the Koala at risk and will destroy a known population of this precious species. We believe that people across both Australia and Japan will be alarmed to learn about the impact that the planned Boggabri Mine Expansion will have on the Koala.

We are also concerned about the health impacts of the mine, and proposed adjoining mines, on local farmers and communities. We estimate that 18,000 tonnes of dust will be produced from the mines in total and will largely be deposited on adjoining farmland.

There is evidence to indicate that coal dust represents a real danger to human health in this region but there has not been an adequate assessment of the cumulative impacts on air quality by Idemitsu.

In the interests of the future survival of the Koala and human health in our region, we are writing to ask that you abandon your plans to expand the Boggabri Coal Mine.

We would greatly appreciate your consideration of this issue and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Flint

Spokesperson,

The Northern Inland Council for the Environment

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