

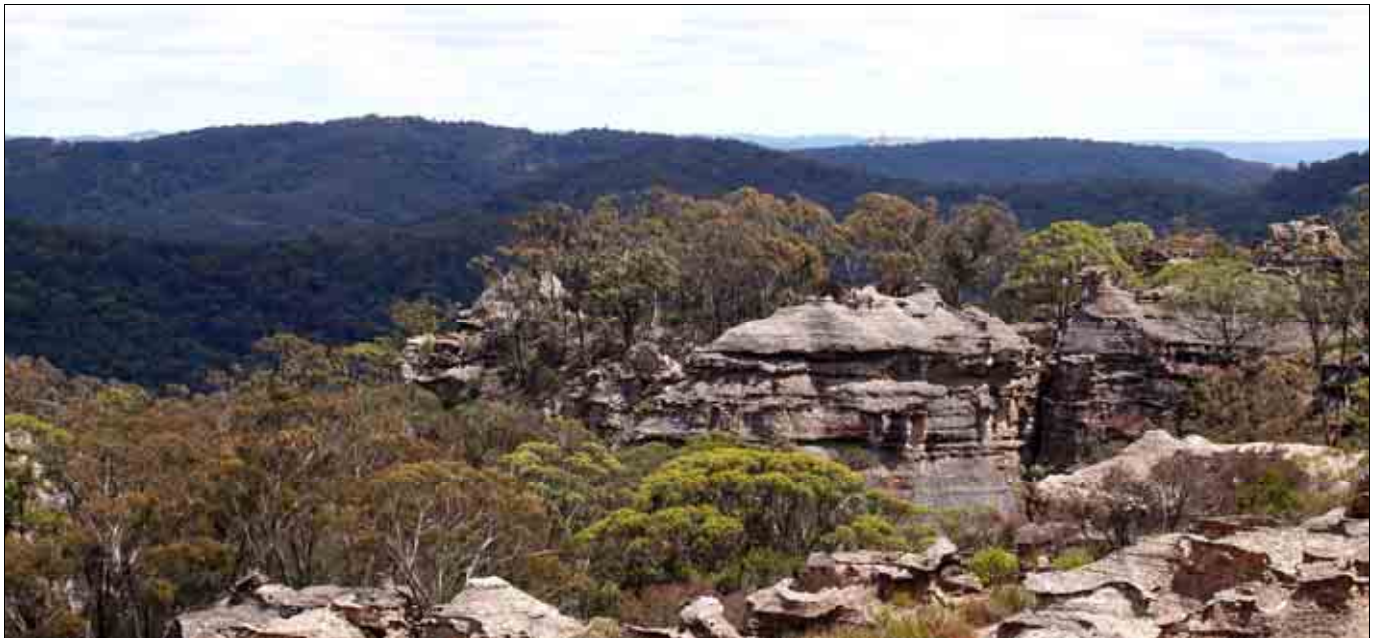
A Huge Open Cut threatens the Gardens of Stone

Privatisation by stealth – a unique biodiverse and geodiverse public forest is at risk of exclusive occupation and destruction by open cut coal mining

A 843 hectare open cut proposed in the Ben Bullen State Forest 20 kilometres north of Lithgow is endangering the fate of the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 reserve proposal. Coalpac's huge proposal on the western side of the Great Divide Range will **come forward for approval this summer**. It adjoins the Mudgee (Castlereagh) Highway, and would turn an area equivalent in size to 2,000 footballfields into a waste rock heap within the Ben Bullen State Forest, which links the north and south parts of the reserve proposal. The proposed pile of waste would fill 3/4 of Sydney Harbour.

We can stop this now, but only with your help!

Don't let this public forest ...



be open cut like this...



Reserve Proposal threatened by destructive precedent

The Gardens of Stone is a biodiversity and geodiversity hot spot. While partly reserved as a national park in 1994, the majority of the proposal's unique pagoda sandstone formations were excluded due to coal mining leases. The underground mining in the Ben Bullen section was completed 2011.

Environment groups were recently advised that the Ben Bullen/Wolgan State Forests were next in line for reservation. **We thought we were getting somewhere!**

Only a few minor open cut mines had occurred on the western edge of the proposal. Now the huge Coalpac mine threatens to turn the Gardens of Stone into an environmental disaster zone. Open cut coal mining in indifferent country is bad enough, but the destruction of this outstanding natural area is intolerable. In high conservation areas, it's time to stop destructive proposals, such as this gigantic open cut in a publicly-owned forest!



The proposed location of the huge open cut north of Lithgow (east of Cullen Bullen). All the area enclosed by the red lines will become a gaping hole in the ground, with sheer faces coming right up to the pagoda rock formations, which will then be undermined under using horizontal augers ('highwalling').

Stop it NOW! Please Take Action. Send an email or write to to Barry O'Farrell urging him to reject Coalpac's proposed open cut, and to gazette instead the entire Ben Bullen/Wolgan State Forests as a Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area.

- The Hon. Barry O'Farrell, Premier of NSW, email: premier@nsw.gov.au
mail: Parliament House, Sydney, 2000

Join the campaign email: keith@colongwilderness.org.au or go to www.colongwilderness.org.au

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