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9th November 2012

Major Planning Assessments
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001
stephen.o'donoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au
office@premier.nsw.gov.au
office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au

Re: Objection to Cobbora Coal Project - Ref. No: 10-0001

Dear Sir/Madam,

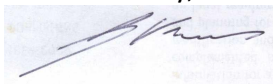
I am an environmental scientist working for local government and resident of Meerschaum Vale NSW and I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed Cobbora coal project.

I object to the Cobbora Coal project as it will consume \$3.4 billion of NSW taxpayer's money in order to destroy 1,867ha of significant woodland providing habitat for 39 threatened species, including nationally listed endangered species and will disturb 47km² of land with important high conservation and agricultural value. The project justification is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections and will generate additional greenhouse gas emissions conflicting with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts. Water supply for the mine during dry conditions will draw down supply for the Mudgee wine and tourism industry and significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites will be destroyed.

This all seems to be the result of dirty backroom deals done to flog off our public electricity generators and ensure the private companies get maximum profits. The mine will run at a loss for the government eroding any one off profit made by the unethical sale of the taxpayer owned generators. This makes no sense and seems to be yet another example of a completely incompetent government or worse still one with some other secret agenda. This project will ensure another 20 years of increasing CO² emissions which will threaten our coastal, towns and cities, agricultural lands, highways, railways and airports such as Sydney

airport with inundation. You may consider this a small price to pay; I and the voters of NSW may seek to differ. This money should be diverted into building renewable power supplies with proven solar thermal, tidal, wave, wind and solar PV energy providing base load power and allowing coal fired stations to be completely phased out. This would have been an important reason to keep coal fired generation in public hands however the government seems to have missed this in their rush to make a short term economic gain coupled with a long term loss for the economy, the community and the environment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Garry Owers', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Garry Owers