Major Development Assessment Department of Planning and Infrastructure GPO Box 39 Sydney NSW 2001

## Potential Mine Project - Cobbora Holding Company Pty Ltd (CHC)

There are many business interests currently located within the Orana Region (such as Manufacturing & Engineering, Automotive, Construction, and Electrical & Technical Services) that are all eagerly anticipating the increased activity and opportunities that promise to become available with the commencement of the exciting Cobbora Coal Mining Project. And the partnership approach that Cobbora representatives are obviously seeking to implement at a local level has been well received by business and industry in the region. As a fledgling organisation, the Orana Region Industry Network (ORIN) is a good example.

As Chair of the current Working Party I am extremely grateful for the CHC's continued interest and recent support in attending our planning sessions and, in effect, providing valuable input that will ultimately assist us to finalise the necessary planning we need to undertake to see ORIN formerly created in the very near future.

As Chair of ORIN I do recognise that the introduction of new mines into an area can bring substantial economic benefits and should provide a platform for continued strong growth to occur well into the future. It is ORIN's intention to work closely with proponents like the CHC and government leaders to mitigate any negative influences that might present themselves; and to work towards maximising the substantial tangible benefits an influx of this scale of development can bring to the region. The ORIN Working Party is seeking to do this by ensuring that local business matching for opportunities like the Cobbora project do occur, which I believe will help to drive continued jobs growth, business expansion, innovations and increased commerce generally across the various affected communities in the region.

The CHC has, through its community and business engagement activities, proven to be a willing partner in helping to drive the economic development of the region forward. With their continued involvement and support of local initiatives and their stated willingness to tap into local resources, an eager and ready workforce, training providers and the indigenous community, CHC is clearly committed to working with the community to maximise the potential benefits of their new mining operation.

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With an average construction workforce of approximately 350 people, reaching an anticipated 550, and an estimated ongoing workforce of over 500 people, it is easy to see the potential economic benefits that a project of this type could bring to the Orana region. As Chair of the ORIN Working Party I therefore support the development concepts and look forward to the CHC gaining approval to begin the construction phase of their operations.

M. RA.

**Kevin Saul** 

Chair ORIN Working Party

