

10TH November, 2012


Beecroft
NSW 2119

Major Planning Assessments
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Cobbora Coal Mine, Ref No: 10-0001

I am constantly appalled at the NSW Government's lack of understanding regarding the urgency of tackling climate change and this government's continuing support for new coal mines and coal seam gas extraction. The proposed Cobbora Coal Mine is yet another example of short term gain triumphing over long term planning and will result in long term disaster which our generation will have to answer for.

As a long time resident of NSW, a former taxpayer (now a self-funded retired) and a person with a science background, I am astounded at the government's ability to ignore the science and take a "she'll be right" attitude to the future when the facts tell us otherwise. The idea is not to grab as much money as possible before disaster hits, the idea is to stop the disaster happening in the first place. I am, of course, referring to climate change

Thankfully other governments are taking action and the demand for our coal is decreasing as is the demand for electricity locally. How then can the NSW government justify approval for another coal mine which will result in loss of habitat, threats to endangered and vulnerable species, not to mention the loss of productive farmland and the poorly reported health effects, particularly on children, from coal dust, noise and other disruption. Mines are not just holes in the ground, which are bad enough, they also require trucks and trains, bright lights and the pounding of explosions on otherwise quiet communities.

In addition coal mines use water. Water is a scarce commodity in rural NSW in drought times, which will become more frequent as we warm. Using water to produce coal, which will exacerbate global warming further, is madness. Please re-think your approach and say no to new coal mines. We don't need them, we don't want them and there are much better alternatives.

The justification for this mine needs to be re-assessed in the light of current demand and future projections for coal sales and prices. Whatever benefits the mine purports to have, they are outweighed by the destruction it will bring, including almost 2,000 hectares of habitat and 79 Aboriginal sites. The impacts on local communities, particularly in this case, the wine and tourism industries, need to be assessed in social as well as economic terms, and over a long period. Please read Sharyn Munro's book, *Rich Land, Wasteland*, if you don't understand what the impacts on local communities are. I don't think you would be approving such development if you had.

Australia is a rich country and we can live in a smarter way using renewable energy if we have the political will to get on with it. Clearly the political will is not present in this government, which doesn't understand the impact of what it is doing. You need more people in government with science backgrounds or who have a good understanding of science. You certainly need a Minister for the Environment who understands his or her portfolio better than Robyn Parker and who is a strong voice for the environment, which can't speak for itself. We need more intelligent thinking in government which will set this state up for a 21st century future. We don't need more coal. There is no justification whatsoever for new mines.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Ellis

