

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

Attention: stephen.o'donoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au

RE: Objection to Cobbora Coal Project –
(state owned open cut coal mine proposal)
Application No: 10_0001

Monday, 5 November 2012

Dear Sir,

I object to the above development for the following reasons,

1. Cobbora Coal project is inappropriate investment of \$3.4b of NSW taxpayers money that will subsidise coal-fired power generators. It is a direct subsidy to power generators in NSW. The argument for continued coal-fired electricity in comparison to the long-term benefits of renewable energy sources has not been made. Tax payer's money would be better invested in renewable energy sources
2. The project justification is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections, demand has dropped significantly since this project was proposed.
3. The project will generate additional greenhouse gas emissions conflicting with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts. It will lock NSW into coal-fired electricity generation until at least 2036.
4. The project will provide poor quality coal to Upper Hunter and Central Coast power stations, and the health impacts of using poor quality coal have not been assessed
5. The project proposes to increase train movements through Newcastle by 8 additional trains per day increasing traffic hold ups at Adamstown and Clyde St gates by 40 mins.

And with some export coal also expected to go through the port, this could expand significantly.

6. The open cut coal mine project will disturb approx 47km² of land with important high conservation and agricultural value and significant, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.
7. It will destroy 1,867ha of significant woodland providing habitat for 39 threatened species, including nationally listed endangered species : eg Grassy Box Woodland; endangered and vulnerable plants, including 100% loss of the local population of *Tylophora linearis*
8. The endangered bird species include the Australasian bittern, malleefowl, regent honeyeater, superb parrot; and vulnerable microbat species (southern long-eared bat and large-eared pied bat). Also a large number of threatened woodland birds protected under the NSW Threatened Species Act were recorded in the area of impact - brown tree creeper, diamond firetail, glossy black-cockatoo, grey-crowned babbler, hooded robin, speckled warbler, varied sittella, masked owl, barking owl, powerful owl.
9. The NSW Government has purchased 68 of 90 properties in the affected area. The loss of farming community and broadscale food production has not been adequately assessed.
10. The project will compete with the Mudgee wine and tourism industry for water supply during drought conditions. The mine will need to use up to 3,700 ML (million litres) of water per year from surface water and groundwater interception. The use of high security licenced water from the Cudgegong River will threaten the water security of the Mudgee region wine and tourism industries and it could also threaten the long term security of urban water supply from Windamere Dam.

Yours sincerely,