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

Dear Sir,

**Submission: Objections to Cobbora Coal Project**

I am a resident of Sydney, but have made several recent visits to the Dubbo/Gulgong district and have been following the development of this issue with interest.

I object to the proposed Cobbora Coal Project on the following grounds:

1. The justification of this project is flawed as it is based on electricity demand projections that do not reflect the fact that demand has dropped significantly since the original proposal.
2. It is totally inappropriate that \$3.4 billion of taxpayer money is proposed to be spent on a mine that would be run at a loss in order to subsidise power generation to be run by private companies, ie. to subsidise the profits of those private companies.
3. The use of 3,700 megalitres of water per year by the mine will threaten the water supply to the wine and tourism industries in the Mudgee region.

The Mid-Western Regional Council has reviewed the environmental assessment of the Cobbora coal project. Spokeswoman Catherine Van Laeran says there are concerns about how the information has been collected. "From that, if that basic water balancing modelling is incorrect then the impacts on surface water and how they impact on downstream users, the environment, the quality of the water and even the operational requirements of the mine will all be meaningless if the groundwork is inappropriate or incorrect."

4. This project would lock the State into coal-fired generation for many years and result in increased greenhouse gas emissions over that time period. This conflicts with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts.
5. The clearing of 1867ha of woodland habitat will impact on many endangered and vulnerable plant and bird species. The proposed biodiversity offset package is inadequate; a rehabilitated mine site cannot substitute for the destruction of a functioning ecosystem.

In conclusion, let me say that I concur with the following observation by the Nature Conservation Council:

“The cost benefit analysis for the project has not taken into account the social disruption; competition for workforce with other industries, particularly the agricultural industry; or the cost of major infrastructure upgrades, particularly rail lines, to accommodate additional coal transport.”

Yours sincerely,

David Penn