

# DUBBO FIELD NATURALIST & CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.



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Fostering interest, knowledge and enjoyment in natural history and conservation since 1977

Major Planning Assessments  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
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15 November 2012

## OBJECTION TO THE COBBORA MINE PROPOSAL

We thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed Cobbora Cola Mine proposal as exhibited by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPIInf).

The Dubbo Field Naturalist and Conservation Society (Dubbo Field Nats) has over 100 members and has been operating since 1977.

Overall, we object to the mine due to the following points:

1. **Development Footprint:** The approximately 47km<sup>2</sup> of land that the mine and associated infrastructure project will disturb is a great concern, particularly where there is both high conservation value land and land with agricultural value to the people of NSW. That the project will destroy 1,867ha of significant woodland habitat that provides for 39 threatened species, including nationally listed endangered species, brings us to question the ability of the proponent to meet the 'improve or maintain' test. The ability to offset such impacts is surely limited, particularly where grassy White Box woodland is concerned.
2. **Water Supply Impacts:** We understand the project will remove water from the Cudgegong River to support the mine operations. As an upstream system to the Macquarie, we are concerned about the third-party effects of relocation of water licences into the Cudgegong from the Macquarie regulated system. This would seem to have possible impacts on supplies of town, environmental and irrigation water in the River system.
3. **Carbon contribution:** The project will directly contribute to Carbon emissions. Apart from conflicting with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts, this is a waste of NSW funding that could instead be used for sustainable energy projects like medium-scale solar energy plants, of which we note there are still none present in the area, despite promises from government. We advocate for less NSW investment in this mine and instead supporting more *actual development* of these alternatives to coal-supply.

In conclusion, the massive footprint of the mine combined with the significant impacts to surface water supplies in the Cudgegong and Macquarie and the direct contribution to carbon emissions all mean we cannot support the mine, and call for the NSW government to instead invest in sustainable energy development rather than this wasteful and environmental damaging development.

We are happy to provide further information on any points raised above.

Yours sincerely,

Janice Hosking  
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