

81 Prince Edward Street
Blackheath NSW 2785
(02) 4787 8080

15th November 2012

Ref. No: 10-0001 – Cobbora Coal Mine Expansion

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Blackheath & a member of Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion of the Cobbora Coal Mine, as my family history is embedded in the Mudgee area. My Great-grandfather and several other family members are buried in Mudgee Cemetery and my father was born in the town. Our family frequently visits the town and area.

I cannot understand why the government would consider spending \$3.4 Billion of public money on such an inappropriate project as the expansion of this coal mine, which will lock New South Wales into Coal-Fired electricity generation until 2036. That is a ridiculously long period of time – over 20 years – to commit our community to burning this fossil fuel unnecessarily.

There are many more modern, less polluting & invasive methods of generating electricity that could benefit from such an amount of money. Ask if you aren't aware of what these are.

In addition to the pollution and inappropriate technology, the digging up of the coal in this project will destroy 1,867ha of significant woodland providing habitat for 39 threatened species, including nationally listed endangered species.

And, significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites will be destroyed, while this coal project will complete with both tourism in the area and the wine industry, by way of water availability, especially in times of drought. I understand that the mine would have secure water rights to use up to 3,700 ML (million litres) of water per year from surface water and groundwater interception.

I urge you to reconsider the viability of this project after taking into account all costs to the community from its operation.

Thank You for your attention,

Paul Vale

Paul Vale
paulvale@ozemail.com.au

CC: Premier Barry O'Farrell
Planning Minister Brad Hazard
Leader of the Opposition John Robertson