

Application No: 10_0001

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Online: http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=3695

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

Subject: Objection to Cobbora Coal Mine

Dear Mr O'Donoghue,

I would like to put forward my objections to the Cobbora Coal mine for the following reasons:

- The project will destroy approximately 47square miles of land with important high conservation and agricultural value
- The project will destroy 1,867ha of significant woodland providing habitat for 39 threatened species, including nationally listed endangered species such as: Grassy Box Woodland; 100% loss of the local population of *Tylophora linearis* ; the endangered bird species australasian bittern, malleefowl, regent honeyeater, superb parrot; and vulnerable microbat species, as well as the southern long-eared bat, large-eared pied bat.
- It will also destroy a number of threatened woodland birds protected under the NSW Threatened Species Act which have been recorded in the area of impact, including: the brown tree creeper, diamond firetail, glossy black-cockatoo, grey-crowned babbler, hooded robin, speckled warbler, varied sittella, masked owl, barking owl and powerful owl.
- The impacts of the project are unknown, especially on the Mudgee wine and tourism industry. 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 licensed water from the Cudgegong River will threaten the water security of the Mudgee region wine and tourism industries. It could also threaten the long –term security of urban water supply from Windamere Dam.
- The project will generate additional greenhouse gas emissions conflicting with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts
- The mine at \$3.4b is an inappropriate and unjustified investment of taxpayer's money. Taxpayer's money would be better invested in renewable energy sources.
- The project justification is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections

- The project will destroy significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, potentially affecting 79 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites
- It will lock NSW into coal-fired electricity generation until at least 2036.
- The coal produced will be a sub standard product with high ash content, thus causing potential health issues for local residents
- The justification for the project is based on incorrect projections of demand for coal-fired electricity over the next 10 years. Demand has dropped significantly since this project was proposed.
- The proposed biodiversity offset package has not been finalized and is inappropriately based on mine rehabilitation. The replacement of high conservation value habitat especially tree hollows in slow growing woodland species takes centuries.
- The NSW Government has purchased 68 of 90 properties in the affected area. The loss of farming community and broad-scale food production has not been adequately assessed.
- 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 across western NSW; or the costs of major infrastructure upgrades, particularly rail lines, to accommodate additional coal transport.
- Towns and properties along the coal chain will be impacted by additional noise and dust from increased coal train movements.

This project requires closer scrutiny and should not be approved.

Yours sincerely

Linda Bowden

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