



Trim No: D12/10909

Mr Stephen O'Donoghue
Senior Planner
Mining and Industry Projects
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr O'Donoghue

**Cobbora Coal Project (10-0001)
Exhibition of Environmental Assessment**

Reference is made to our letter of 3 August and your email of 2 October 2012 regarding the abovementioned proposal.

A review of the Cobbora Coal Project Environmental Assessment documents forwarded to this office for comment has revealed that most of the issues addressed by this office in the abovementioned letter have been clarified.

However, in many rural areas away from towns, water caught on the roof of buildings and directed to storage tanks is the source of potable drinking water for the occupants. The impact on water quality and therefore health, of dust and particulate emissions that may fall on these same roof catchments has not been addressed in the Environmental Assessment.

Additionally, the Director General's requirements regarding dust generation from coal transport have been addressed in relation to the PAA, the nearby railway line and the town of Gulgong along the train route. No assessment has been made of the cumulative effects further to the east where the coal trains from the Cobbora mine will add further coal train movements to existing coal train railway lines passing through towns in the Hunter Valley e.g. Muswellbrook, Singleton and Maitland.

With regards to the issues mentioned above, I must therefore advise that I believe the Environmental Assessment has not adequately addressed all of the issues with regards to Air Quality.

Yours faithfully

Lyndal O'Leary
**A/ Director
Population Health**

Population Health Unit

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