

12 November 2012

Head Office  
23-33 Bridge Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Email: [Plan\\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

### **RDA Orana NSW - Support for the Cobbora Coal Mine Project.**

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Orana NSW supports the planning application made by Cobbora Holding Company Pty Ltd to develop the Cobbora Coal Project, which is expected to be located approximately 5km south of Cobbora and 22km south-west of Dunedoo, in the Orana region. The project, an open-cut coal mine, is anticipated to supply up to 9.5 million tonnes of coal a year to three customers which operate major coal-fired power stations in NSW.

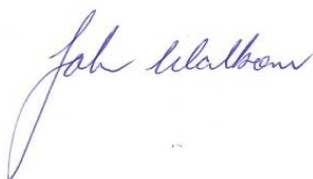
The mining industry's economic contribution to the state of NSW, and specifically to the Orana region, is significant in terms of stimulating growth and providing ongoing sustainability for regional and rural Australia. The opening of the Cobbora Coal Mine would undoubtedly deliver these same benefits to our region by boosting the smaller economies of several rural townships such as Dunedoo, Wellington, Geurie, Coonabarabran, Mendooran, Gilgandra and regional cities such as Dubbo.

I am aware that Cobbora Holding Company Pty Limited has held an extensive public consultation process and has made a clear commitment to employing as many local people as possible. This demonstrates the organisation's motivation to work with the local communities and to ensure that they will benefit directly from the new mining development.

As we have observed with other mining operations in the area, in addition to direct employment, the new mine will also bring other flow on benefits to the wider Orana region including the stimulation of new trade and investment, business growth and diversification, population growth, infrastructure upgrades and general increase in living standards.

RDA Orana believes that this is a new opportunity for the region and supports the development of the Cobbora Coal project - and the benefits that are likely to flow from it.

Yours sincerely



**John Walkom | Chair - RDA Orana**



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UD OF OUR PEOPLE & OUR REGION



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