

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



16 November 2012

Dear Sir,

Objection to Cobbora Coal Project – Application No: 10 0001

Running Stream Water Users Association Inc objects to the Cobbora Coal Project for the following reasons:

1. The project will use too much water: 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 licenced 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. It is also ludicrous that the mine should be allowed to bring water upstream by buying water licenses from well below the project. How do you send water upriver?
2. It is inappropriate investment of \$1.5b of NSW taxpayers money particularly as 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 in the region. In addition the coal is extremely poor quality product with high ash content.
3. The project justification is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections
4. The project will generate additional greenhouse gas emissions, approx 25m tonnes per year, conflicting with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts
5. The NSW Government has purchased 68 of 90 properties in the affected area. The loss of farming community and broadscale food production has not been adequately assessed.
6. The large open cut mine will disturb approx 47km² of land with important high conservation and agricultural value. This includes the destruction of 1,867ha of significant woodland providing habitat for 39 threatened species, including nationally listed endangered species
7. The project will destroy significant Aboriginal cultural heritage loss of at least 79 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

Yours sincerely,

Nell Schofield
President

RUNNING STREAM WATER USERS ASSOCIATION INC. EST. 1991

POST: PO BOX 28, KANDOS, NSW 2848 **EMAIL:** RUNNINGSTREAM2850@GMAIL.COM **WEB:** RUNNINGSTREAM2850.BLOGSPOT.COM
DEDICATED TO MAINTAINING AND PROTECTING THE WATER RESOURCES OF THE ILFORD/ RUNNING STREAM AREA