



# HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

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To whom it may concern,

Humane Society International (HSI) writes on behalf of our 50,000 Australian members in objection to the Cobbora coal mine in central-west New South Wales. In its currently proposed form this development is set to mine 20 million tonnes of coal per annum and destroy a total of 1,867 hectares of woodland, which provides habitat for approximately 40 threatened species listed under either the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999* (EPBC Act) or New South Wales *Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995* (TSC Act).

Already under threat due to past clearing, several threatened woodland bird species listed under the NSW *Threatened Species Act, 1995* (TSC Act) have been recorded in the area of impact, including the brown tree creeper (*Climacteris picumnus*), diamond firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*), glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), grey-crowned babbler (*Pomatostomus temporalis*), hooded robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*), speckled warbler (*Pyrrholaemus sagittatus*) and varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), as well as masked (*Tyto novaehollandiae*), barking (*Ninox connivens*) and powerful (*Ninox strenua*) owls.

Of particular concern to HSI is the detrimental impact the clearing of 1,867 hectares of woodland habitat will have on Threatened Ecological Communities such as White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland. Furthermore, EPBC Act listed species including the Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*), malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), regent honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*), superb parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*), south-eastern long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus corbeni*) and large-eared pied bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*) will be adversely affected.

The project's considerable size will result in the environmental degradation of wildlife habitat as well as groundwater and surface water sources. The proposed biodiversity offset package is inappropriately based on mine rehabilitation, as the replacement of high conservation value habitat, particularly tree hollows in slow growing woodland species, will take tens to hundreds of years.

We look forward to your earliest convenient response on this issue. If you require any further information please don't hesitate to contact me on 9973 1728 or at [evan@hsi.org.au](mailto:evan@hsi.org.au).

Yours sincerely,

Evan Quartermain  
Program Officer