



154 Woorarra Ave

Elanora Heights

NSW 2010

12th November 2012

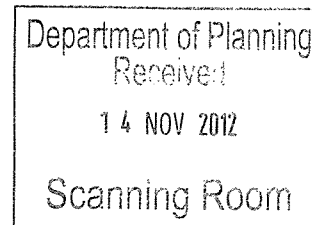
Major Planning Assessments

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney 2001

Re: Cobbora Coal Project



Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to comment on the proposed Cobbora Coal project. Besides being a life long resident of NSW I feel that I have a right to make a submission as I have undergraduate qualifications in Science (Geology and Geophysics); I have travelled through the upper Hunter for over 10 years visiting a close relative who lives in Scone as well as a tourist; I also have deep concerns for the future of our planet unless we do something to curb our greenhouse gas emissions – specifically CO₂ emissions and I am deeply concerned about the destruction of a sustainable resources – agriculture and high conservation areas of the Upper Hunter, in exchange for short term economic gains – the Cobbora Coal project.

Have you flown or driven through the Hunter Valley recently and seen what open cut coal mines are doing to our land, our air and to our children's future?

My specific objections are as follows:

1. In light of the ICAC revelations aired tonight (12/11/2012) on the ABC TV News (NSW) about alleged Ministerial leaks and apparent alleged favouritism for others in relation to approvals for coal mines in the Bylong Valley I have grave concerns over the probity of the approval process of any new coal projects – at the very least the whole process by which the project was approved should be started again from scratch.
2. At a time when the NSW treasury is stretched the Cobbora Coal project is inappropriate investment of \$3.4 billion of NSW taxpayers' money
3. The project justification is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections – I have put solar panels on my roof and purchase 100% green energy. We can ween ourself off fossil fuel power stations!

4. The project will generate additional greenhouse gas emissions conflicting with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts
5. The project will disturb approximately 47km² of land with important high conservation and agricultural value
6. The project will destroy 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 sites
8. The project will compete with the Mudgee wine and tourism industry for water supply during drought conditions

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'IRalph', followed by a period.

Ian Ralph