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

Friday 16 November 2012

SUBMISSION of OBJECTION

Cobbora Coal Project No: 10_0001

Dear Sir,

I strongly object to the NSW Government proposal to develop a large open cut mining operation in the Cobbora district for the purpose of supplying poor quality coal to coal-fired power generators in the Hunter region.

The environmental assessment of the Cobbora mine proposal has indicted that it will cause significant damage to the terrestrial ecology, the aquatic ecology, groundwater systems and the community in the area.

An adequate justification has not been made for a large open cut mine to extract a resource that appears to be uneconomic for the people of NSW. The need for regional employment opportunities and training would be better met by improved Government investment in the renewable energy and services industries in central west NSW.

The people of the Mudgee region have had first-hand experience of the negative impacts of the mining industry and are not interested in having more foisted on them through a Government owned project.

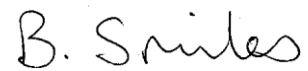
The economics associated with the Cobbora proposal do not add up to a viable operation that would attract private investment.

The power stations in the Hunter and Central Coast were built on top of known coal resources. There is no justification for sourcing coal from over 200 km away. The impacts of additional train movements on all the communities along the Hunter rail corridor are not necessary.

The flow on effect of this proposal to other industries in the area, including the possible threat to long-term water security for the Mudgee region is too high a price to pay for an uneconomic venture.

I recommend that the Cobbora Coal Project not be approved on the grounds of significant environmental, social and economic impact.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Smiles". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large capital 'B' and a capital 'S'.

Bev Smiles