



Goulburn River Stone Cottages

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Objection to Cobbora Coal Project – Preferred Project Report No: 10-0001

We object to the Cobbora Coal Project Preferred Project Report (PPR):

- If approved this state-owned coal mine will come at an unacceptable cost to NSW tax payers. The economic assessment and justification for this project is inadequate, incomplete and fails to prove it can provide '*reliable, secure and economically stable domestic coal supply (to) NSW generators*'
- With the current technological and economic advances in the production and supply of affordable and reliable renewable energy the PPR cannot claim this mine will provide nor can guarantee '*affordable electricity in NSW.*'
Research by Bloomberg New Energy Finance show the decreasing cost of renewable energy and the rising cost of finance for emission-intensive fuels makes it uneconomic for Australia to construct new coal fired power stations. Their figures indicate wind energy is now 14 per cent cheaper than a new base load coal-fired power station¹.
- There must be a transparent and evidence based assessment of the impacts on the Cudjegong River of supplying high security water to this development particularly on flow regimes during dry periods and on water access to towns and agricultural activities dependent on water supply in the catchment. In addition the PPR does not justify the increase in water demand for mining operations from the previous prediction of 3,700 ML per year up to 4,340 ML per year.
- The ecological footprint of the mine is too high and cannot be adequately offset. The PPR does not identify a final offset package because this is not achievable. The PPR will increase the area of destroyed woodland by 92 ha including an additional 11 ha of threatened ecological communities.
- The proposal to implement the draft 'Rail Infrastructure Noise Policy' will disadvantage local residents affected by increased noise from the proposed rail loop.
- Issues relating to the reliance on the Ulan rail line to transport coal have not been addressed (identified in the ARTC 2012 – 2020 Rail Corridor Capacity Strategy).

Yours sincerely,

CD & JE Imrie

¹ 'Wind farms can now generate electricity at \$80 per megawatt-hour, compared with \$143 for a new coal power station: <http://www.smh.com.au/business/carbon-economy/rising-risk-prices-out-new-coalfired-plants-report-20130207-2e0s4.html#ixzz2LlyCX8np>