

5 March 2013

Dear Planning and Infrastructure NSW,

Re: Cobbora Coal Project, Application No: 10-0001

This document is my submission regarding the Cobbora Coal Project. I strongly oppose this project primarily because expansion of our coal industry at this time locks Australia into a pathway of unnecessary carbon emissions, climate damage and huge health impacts.

Greenhouse emissions, both deliberate and accidental, associated with coal and gas mining, represent a huge threat to human health across the planet. This threat has a lag time of decades between cause and effect, yet is already claiming lives through fire, flooding, drought and other extreme climate-related events. The travesty of unstable climate is only beginning to unfold, yet we already know that the more fossil fuel pollution, the worse it will be, and investment in rapid action to reduce emissions will save money in the long run (see Climate Commission report, "The Critical Decade"). At a time when at least one form of renewable energy (wind) is already cheaper to develop in Australia than coal or gas generated energy, Australians must ask themselves, **"Why should we accept the health risks of further fossil fuel development when there is a cheaper, healthier alternative?"** Please see Bloomberg New Energy Finance's article - <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-02-06/australia-wind-energy-cheaper-than-coal-natural-gas-bnef-says.html>. The Sydney Morning Herald also reports on the Bloomberg report - <http://www.smh.com.au/business/carbon-economy/rising-risk-prices-out-new-coalfired-plants-report-20130207-2e0s4.html>.

The subsidies and government-funded infrastructure associated with coal production ensure that Australians are forced to pay taxes for coal mining. I ask you to weigh the evidence on the impacts of climate change, anticipating that such consideration will lead to you to abandon the Cobbora coal project.

I also ask you to consider the biodiversity associated with the site of development as this alone represents good reason to abandon the proposed coal mine.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Colley
40 Honour Ave, Lawson NSW 2783
