

Terry Barratt
16 Bunberra Street
Bomaderry NSW 2541
March 4, 2013

Major Planning Assessments
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Cobbora Coal Project

I am a resident of Bomaderry and Chair of the Shoalhaven Branch of the Australian Conservation Foundation. My professional career spanned 25 years as a NSW National Parks and Wildlife manager and 10 years as a Sydney Water environmental scientist.

I welcome the opportunity to comment on this project.

This state-owned mining proposal will cost the NSW taxpayer approximately \$3.4 billion and will be run at a loss. What a grossly inappropriate thing to do to subsidise power stations in the Upper Hunter and Central Coast regions. This will lock us into the carbon polluting coal-fired electricity generation industry for at least 23 years.

The project will have a very large impact on groundwater and surface water resources, destroy at least 79 Aboriginal heritage sites and threaten national and state protected species and ecological communities.

For the sake of an erroneously perceived short-term gain for power generation, more carbon will be released into the atmosphere (with the climate change implications that this invokes), farms and urban communities will be under threat from reduced water supplies (with implications for the agricultural and tourism industries), environmental flows in the Cudgegong River will be reduced and the nation's biodiversity will be much the poorer.

How can the state government justify such an inappropriate proposition?

This is a dud deal for the people of NSW, offers no realistic economic benefits and brings no credit to the state government.

This project must be rejected in its entirety.

Yours sincerely



Terry Barratt BSc(Hons)