



# ***Coastwatchers***

***Eurobodalla's environment and  
climate action group***

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

6<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Email: [plan\\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au)

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

This objection is on behalf of our members all of whom are concerned about the negative impact this project will have on biodiversity, clean air, water availability, and future climate. We also urge the government to invest the money in renewable energy instead.

**Biodiversity**

The mine will have a huge ecological footprint that cannot be offset. It will also destroy a large area of woodland including threatened ecological communities - this in part of the state where land clearing has been a problem for decades.

**Clean Air**

The coal to be mined has a high ash content and there has been no study to see what impact burning this coal could have on the health of residents near and workers at the power stations that will use it. At the mine itself there will be increased dust emissions from the over burden emplacements.

**Water in a Future Climate**

The increase in demand for water to 4,340 ML/year has not been justified in the PPR. In the past the region's climate has fluctuated between drought and heavy rain. There is a strong likelihood that these fluctuations will increase in the future with climate change. The mine will have a devastating impact on ground and surface water, especially in times of drought, and will affect other water users including the environment. These impacts, including the increased pump rate from the Cudgegong River, have not been properly assessed.

## Invest in Renewables

The mines are not needed and the original contracts should be renegotiated. While governments are being very slow to act the community and private industry are moving towards reducing the use of electricity. Projections of demand for the coal-fired electricity are wrong. Renewable energy is also becoming much more cost-competitive and would be even more so if subsidies to coal-fired generation were ended. The export price of black coal has also dropped.

There is no justification for using around \$3.4 billion of taxpayers' money to subsidise a dinosaur industry. This project would not go ahead if the long-term benefits and costs were properly assessed, including social disruption, impacts on the agricultural industry and costs of infrastructure upgrades just for coal transport.

The money would be better invested in renewable energy projects scattered across the state to take best advantage of wind and sun and reduce the reliance on the line network. Maintenance of the lines has been the major cause of electricity price rises and the proposed mine cannot guarantee "*affordable electricity in NSW*".

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Edwards'.

Jenny Edwards  
Hon. secretary