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Barry Allen, of Leeton NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

See attachment

- Attachment: [Attachment 1.PDF](#)

OBJECTION

B W & SA ALLEN
66 Karri Rd, Leeton NSW 2705

Phone: 02 69535548
Mobile: 0427 548001
Email: bwallen@iinet.net.au

Friday 9th November 2012

Stephen O'Donoghue stephen.o'donoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au
Major Planning Assessments
Dept. Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir

Re: Objection to Cobbora Coal Mine

The people of NSW don't want the destruction of almost two thousand hectares of pristine native vegetation to build another unwanted coal mine. We value the little remaining uncleared native bushland remaining in Australia and the wonderful birds, animals and other unique wildlife that make these areas their homes.

Please take notice of our objections and knock back this awful proposal.

Yours sincerely

Barry & Sue Allen

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matthew Allison, of Oatley NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

OBJECTION TO THE COBBORA COAL MINE

I wish to strongly object to the NSW Government's plan to develop Cobbora

Coal mine near Dunedoo. The open cut mine will destroy the agricultural potential of the rural holding and could produce at least 10million tonnes of CO2 every year for the next 21years.

This is not the way of the future. We should not jeopardise our children's future by subsidising this retrograde form of energy production.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Allison

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Jorgen Anderson, of Rylstone NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Objection to Cobbora Coal Project
Application No. 10_0001

I would like to strongly oppose the Cobbora Coal Mine Proposal on economic grounds. The government owned mines were sold off about 20-30 years ago because the cost of extraction was about three times that of privately owned mines. Repeating that experiment and expecting another fiscal outcome is not the definition of good science or even common sense.

My objections on environmental grounds are that the poor quality of the coal, containing about 40% ash, needs so much water that the security of Mudgee township and the wine industry is endangered. The idea of buying licences other than above the mine, is just loony. Water doesn't run uphill.

The proposal to mine 20 million mtpa for a small usable amount of 12 megatonnes per annum over 21 years is a big hole in the ground that will cost the district dearly in environmental, social and economic destruction and stress.

The cost of electricity is more influenced by the gold plating of poles and wires than the feedstock to black coal generators. Coal powered generation is a sunset industry where the contribution will fall steadily as it must, because of the pollution and climate changing implication of burning dirty black coal in power stations.

Indonesia spends 40% of their budget to subsidise the petrol industry. While this seemed like a good idea at the time it is now ruining the economic prospects of the nation. New South Wales must not follow their example by subsidising coal powered electricity generation.

Yours sincerely

Jorgen Andersen

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alain ashman, of UNSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I can't believe the government are even considering opening a new coal mine. There are large abundant renewable energy resources in Australia. Organizations such as beyond zero emissions have devised plans to switch 100% renewable energy within 10 years. The government should be listening to these people rather than lining their pockets with coal lobby money. It is of international importance that this coal mine is scraped before it gets of the ground.

alain

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Bev Atkinson, of Scone NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Points of Objection:

Cost benefit, and the triple bottom line, are concepts invented to introduce discipline and rigour.

I find them misused and betrayed in this submission, with intent to persuade only. It is beholden on Planning to see through for example, an assertion that the Cobbora Mine will result in a net increase in biodiversity medium to long term! 24.1.3.

There is currently almost 19 square km of significant woodland, and 39 threatened species, grouped around several creeks and with varied soil types. Any project achieving improvement would need to be of a non invasive nature. A coal mine hardly fits the bill, especially one which makes a coal heap right next to one of the creeks for twenty years.

Its topsoil stockpile is miniscule, indicating to me that the topsoil is fragile and not deep; no way could it be replaceable by a thin veneer over a rock pile.

Some mines in Pilbara crush the overburden finely before replacing it exactly to the previous contour and adding 600mm topsoil; that could be called a good attempt at rehabilitation!

Compare with that, the detail of rehabilitation claimed as part of this project.

Planning should ask for updated figures on cost benefit since the recent steady fall in coal prices. Also updated should be the degree of rehabilitation intended; it would have reduced.

The large green zones on the disturbed land at 21 years are hard enough to believe, but I notice also that the essential element, the creeks, does not even figure in this diagram. How is the rehabilitation to survive the first minor drought?

Bickham's test pit was stated to be for rehabilitation. It hasn't happened, and the solemn promises remain a lever to get future new concessions from Planning, rather than any real intent.

The same could easily happen at Cobbora. What are the Department's instruments to prevent it?

Cost benefit again; the 'intangibles' costed by (what?) 'proven techniques'. \$70 million was the conveniently low figure put on those. No matter what intangibles one asks about, it would be easy to say that they have been taken into account by this figure. A read through the historic heritage impacts and the quick description of aboriginal heritage shows us that some things are not to be costed. Take for instance the Lahey's Creek pioneers' cemetery, to be only 40 metres and a 'protective fence' away from a massive overburden dump, forever. Its horizon lost, its peace and

ambience destroyed, its historic nature demeaned immeasurably.

Some houses, bought up and useless, are said to be likely to deteriorate and 'require' demolition. What they do require, is maintenance for reuse after or during mine operation.

The horizon shapes may be said to change only subtly. But in the comparative photomontages, the difference appears fairly crude, the contours altered and mechanical, even if the woodland were in fact to grow back as portrayed.

Another amazing assertion is that greenhouse gas emissions will reduce as a result of the mine; one is expected to believe that its coal will generate less than Victorian brown coal, so this mine will somehow improve the status quo. As if our local power stations run on peat? Pull the other one. I have heard that other data questions the quality of the Cobbora coal, making it less justifiable.

Claims are made regarding social benefits, and the 50% of labour being local. Where does that come from, and is it really so helpful if it were achievable? I come from Scone, where the towns around here are drained of trades, where the mine money is spent elsewhere anyway, and where the shift workers travelling home are always lucky to get home, rarely seeing their families.

The sixteen workers on the current Cobbora area; they too have families who benefit from their current employ. The food and fibre they produce affects more than just them; it feeds many, and generates benefits way outside their own personal economies; but those ripple effects are not taken into account. Ripple effects are only talked about in terms of positives from coal mining; whether true or not.

Agriculture should be equal on the table. Cost beneficially it has to come out on top, because

- * *it goes on in perpetuity
- * * it need not poison or sterilize land
- * * it boosts rather than reducing health,
- * *it is essential for human and animal life; 'can't eat coal' is not a mere slogan
- * * it is compatible with renewable energy generation of the future
- * * it does not take investment away from the development of renewables
- * * it recycles natural water
- * * it can be managed compatibly with existing biodiversity
- * * is subsidised far less by the public purse than coal mining

Also equal on the table should be the entire environmental effect long term, and cumulatively:

We cannot make more arable land, and coalmines waste the land we have.

We have a changing climate, and every new coalmine will hasten its negative effects.

Australia needs every drop of water for the survival of life; coalmines take water and poison it.

The Cudgegong Rivier is a direct human and animal water supply, it is not to wash coal.

Offsets are an attempted sleight of hand; they create and link nothing; they are labels only. They deal in fear and threats: "If I take this, I promise to protect this remote thing which otherwise will go too. So give me what I want." They assume an evil future for all habitat, and attempt coercion.

If in Cobbora, nearly 2000 hectares of habitat is lost from the grassy woodlands, a threshold may be crossed beyond which the Australasian Bittern for example, will simply disappear from the area.

Siding Spring observatory is a unique and immensely valuable enterprise. No coalmining should ever be allowed to interfere with it, regarding light spill. The concern is that Cobbora may however careful itself, be a precedent for mines even closer to Siding Spring.

This submission can only touch on what is a large set of documents.
I ask the Department of Planning to refuse this Application for Cobbora Coal Mine.

Yours sincerely,

Bev Atkinson B.Arch

Graeme Neil Batterbury
91 Robb Road,
Lillian Rock NSW 2480
(Postal Address: PO Box 3040, Lismore NSW 2480)

9th November 2012.

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of New South Wales and am concerned about the escalation of fossil fuel strategies being pursued in New South Wales. I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion of the Cobbora coal project.

Key Points of Objection:

1. Cobbora Coal project is inappropriate investment of \$3.4 billion of NSW taxpayers' money
2. The project justification is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections
3. The project will generate additional greenhouse gas emissions conflicting with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts
4. The project will disturb approx 47km² of land with important high conservation and agricultural value
5. The project will destroy 1,867ha of significant woodland providing habitat for 39 threatened species, including nationally listed endangered species
6. The project will destroy significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites
7. The project will compete with the Mudgee wine and tourism industry for water supply during drought conditions

At this time, it is essential that the NSW government embrace Renewable Energy.

Re-powering Australia with 100% renewable energy will take commitment and resources, but with the right leadership we can make the shift to a clean energy economy quickly.

Not only will moving to a renewable energy powered economy make Australia a cleaner and better place to live, it will create hundreds of thousands of new clean jobs, ensure our energy security and contribute to the country's continued prosperity.

Cobbora Coal project is a state-owned coal-mining project tied to the sale of the power stations. It will lock NSW into coal-fired electricity generation until at least 2036.

The proposal is to mine 20mtpa (million tonnes per annum) to produce 12mtpa of usable coal – it is extremely poor quality product with high ash content. The project aims to provide cheap domestic coal to power stations in the Upper Hunter and Central Coast. The health impacts of using poor quality coal have not been assessed.

The justification for the project is based on incorrect projections of demand for coal-fired electricity over the next 10 years. Demand has dropped significantly since this project was proposed.

The price of black coal on the export market has also dropped below the projections used to justify the need to source cheaper coal for domestic use.

The mine will cost the NSW taxpayer approx \$3.4 billion and will be run at a loss. It is a direct subsidy to power generators in NSW. The argument for continued coal-fired electricity in comparison to the long-term benefits of renewable energy sources has not been made. Taxpayer's money would be better invested in renewable energy sources.

The project has a very large footprint and will cause major environmental impacts on woodland habitat as well as groundwater and surface water sources and loss of at least 79 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

The clearing of 1,867ha woodland habitat will impact on species listed for national protection: eg Grassy Box Woodland; endangered and vulnerable plants, including 100% loss of the local population of *Tylophora linearis*, endangered bird species including australasian bittern, malleefowl, regent honeyeater, superb parrot; and vulnerable microbat species - southern long-eared bat, large-eared pied bat.

Also a large number of threatened woodland birds protected under the NSW Threatened Species Act were recorded in the area of impact - brown tree creeper, diamond firetail, glossy black-cockatoo, grey-crowned babbler, hooded robin, speckled warbler, varied sittella, masked owl, barking owl, powerful owl.

The proposed biodiversity offset package has not been finalized and is inappropriately based on mine rehabilitation. The replacement of high conservation value habitat especially tree hollows in slow growing woodland species takes centuries.

The mine will need to use up to 3,700 ML (million litres) of water per year from surface water and groundwater interception. The use of high security licenced water from the Cudgegong River will threaten the water security of the Mudgee region wine and tourism industries. It could also threaten the long-term security of urban water supply from Windamere Dam.

The NSW Government has purchased 68 of 90 properties in the affected area. The loss of farming community and broadscale food production has not been adequately assessed.

The cost benefit analysis for the project has not taken into account the social disruption; competition for workforce with other industries, particularly the agricultural industry across western NSW; or the costs of major infrastructure upgrades, particularly rail lines, to accommodate additional coal transport.

Towns and properties along the coal chain will be impacted by additional noise and dust from increased coal train movements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Batterbury', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Graeme Batterbury

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Laila Bazzi, of Individual, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to submit my opposition to this project for these main reasons:

- * At a time when governments, including our own, are making commitments to reduce their coal pollution, I cannot comprehend how this State Government is proposing to sink \$3.4 billion of our taxpayer money to subsidise this archaic resource.
- * The money would be better spent invested in leading edge renewable technology - a source of jobs, income and a way to secure our competitive standing in the global clean energy market.
- * The project threatens the biodiversity of an area of 1,867 ha, including endangered species.

I hope you will consider my objection and work to ensure our State invests in progressive projects - not those of a protectionist, short-sighted and destructive nature.

Kind regards,
Laila Bazzi

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Alice Beauchamp, of Lane Cove NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

OBJECTION

I wish to oppose this proposal on several grounds, together making a strong case:-

1. It was first proposed by the Keneally Government as part of the electricity privatisation deal, and if ever correct, the figures for coal-fired power demands since then, have steeply declined, so are no longer applicable. Nor does the present Government generally aspire to be in line with the previous Labor Government.
2. The vast costs at taxpayer expense, with the currently stretched budget and so many other urgent needs, cannot be justified.
3. If actioned, close to 2,000 hectares of precious wildlife habitat would be destroyed, as well as woodlands, irreplaceable agricultural land and damage to scarce groundwater resources.
4. The desecration of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, no longer tolerable to a majority of the community.
5. In current times, scientifically-backed & clearly observable evidence of threatening Climate Change, would surely make the supply of cheaper coal to our polluting power stations into the future, insupportable.

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Matthew Bell, of Port Macquarie NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a NSW ratepayer who has studied academically and practically in environmental conservation, and has worked productively in environmental and community organisations for the past 10 years. I am well aware of the need for job creation in regional communities and the benefits that can be gained for conservation efforts through partnerships with the government and private sectors. Through my experience however I firmly believe that further expansion of the coal industry is undesirable, and I have strong objections to the proposed Cobbora coal project. I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed coal project.

The main concerns I have with this project include:

The enormous financial cost to taxpayers and continued losses over time, combined with ever increasing greenhouse gas emissions. At a time when all governments are committed to reducing our emissions it adds insult to injury to ask ratepayers to pay for the privilege of locking in increased carbon emissions with no real benefit to the broader community.

Any claims of supporting the local community through jobs are negated by the clear negative impacts on the Mudgee wine region and local water supplies.

Further clearing of native habitat in this region will be catastrophic for the local and broader environment, and proposed remediation measures simply cannot address the initial impacts on habitat and wildlife.

Please reconsider any new coal mining projects in NSW and instead make real commitments to renewable energy projects.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Bell

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MJ Bennett, of Kandos NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Comments on this project

Appalling mining plans for what possible reason?

Coborra is a plan for a state-owned coal mine that will cost taxpayers more than \$3 billion, destroy nearly two thousand hectares of wildlife habitat, and provide half-priced coal to our state's polluting power stations for more than 20 years.

The Cobbora coal mine, if built, will provide heavily subsidised coal to six large coal fired power stations, locking in decades of carbon pollution, and delaying investment in clean, renewable energy.

This mine proposal is environmentally destructive and fiscally irresponsible.

What possible benefit to taxpayers can you suggest to justify this environmental hijacking of valuable land and future air quality, future CO2 levels, future climate disaster?

Not forgetting the near-future threat to all life on this planet.

The last time this earthly home of ours had levels of CO2 near the limit we are close to 95% of ALL LIFE WAS extinguished within TWO YEARS, so the records have revealed. Check it out with the scientists.

This time we are the species making this happen again - and even if that timetable is WRONG and it took 50 years or more, what excuse do we have to risk this outcome which could be imminent?

Please explain.

2455 The Lakes Way

Bungwahl 2423

megabens@gmail.com

5th November 2012

Major Planning Assessments

Department Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39 SYDNEY 2001

stephen.o'donoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au

RE: Coborra Coal Project Application No 10_0001

Dear Sir

I wish to strongly object to this coal project for the following reasons:

- The proposal is a waste of taxpayers money. It will lock in subsidised coal fired power generation for the next 20-30 years (life of coal mine). The Coalition government is on record prior to the last election noting that "significant risks and costs" the project imposed on NSW (Hon Mike Baird) The main reason to establish the Coborra mine was to secure long term fuel supplies for state owned power generation. Now that power generation is in the hands of private ownership, why would the government consider and pay for the development of the mine?
- The figures presented for electricity demand and coal price projections are outdated.
- The project is a greenhouse gas intensive, outmoded system for the production of electricity; "Coal is a sunset industry. Last year global investment in renewable energy was greater than investment in all fossil fuels (Australian Conservation Foundation, Tony Mohr, Sydney Morning Herald Oct 27 Climate Change secondary to energy poverty)" Further in the same article it is stated "major coal producer, BHP Billiton, (which) on Thursday reiterated that it accepts mainstream scientific opinion that carbon emissions are unnaturally altering the Earth's climate".
- The existing and potential health impacts of coal mining of the coal mining industry both at the site and along the coal chain have been well documented both in the media and through various scientific reports to the government – for the government to support the unnecessary establishment of another black coal mining project is irresponsible. The community is demanding that the health effects and social harms of highly polluting, coal fired power stations require review (Newcastle Herald, October 30 – Health and Social Harms of Coalmining in local Communities, University of Sydney Health and Sustainability unit)
- Inadequate transport infrastructure will put further strain on community resources, increasing train movements along Hunter Valley rail corridors will adversely affect

communities not only through increase in noise and dust levels but by tying up domestic road and rail amenity.

- There is no clear definition of domestic and export capacity of the project. At any rate, who would buy this coal when it is cheaper and more accessible from China and Indonesia?
- Development of the project is at the expense of environmental and agricultural concerns resulting in long term social impacts including the habitat of 39 threatened species
- Unfair competition in terms of demands for water to the region's (specifically Mudgee) established tourism and agricultural industries which are presently productive and sustainably sound.
- Unacceptable loss of significant Aboriginal cultural sites.

If the government is to work in the public interest it will reject planning for the Coborra coal project as an uneconomic, socially and environmentally unacceptable development proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Megan Benson.

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Kay Binns, of Gulgong NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Thank you for this opportunity to express my objections regarding the above project.

We have seen massive cuts in this state to education, health and public transport, funding losses that will have a profound negative effect on our society. Yet the present government is continuing on with the Cobbora Coal Project at a cost of \$3.4bn at the taxpayers' expense. This investment is completely wrong.

- The demand for electricity has actually decreased, as has also the cost of export coal.
- The figures on which this coal mine was proposed are now outdated.
- In effect, the state government is handing a hefty subsidy to each of the six coal-fired power stations at the expense of investment in renewable energies such as solar power.
- This coal mine will lock in years of greenhouse gas pollution, generating approximately 25m tonnes per year for the life of the mine. This is in direct opposition to the policies of both State and Federal Governments to reduce the impacts of global warming.

Not only is this mine expensive to the taxpayer, it is also very expensive and unsustainable in its water usage. The amount of 3.7 thousand million litres to go to the mine is outrageous, and threatens the viability of the Mudgee region.

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Duncan Bourne, of Cremorne NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

My Objection to this proposal:

The Cobbora Coal Mine proposal will result in massive negative environmental, social and cultural impacts.

There will be the threat to the water table and the loss of agricultural land with their multiplied effects.

The destruction of thousands of hectares of woodlands and the substantial ecosystem damage that will cause both directly to the species there and indirectly to the region.

The threat to migratory species and the damage through runoff and the loss of absorbing tree cover.

The desecration of Aboriginal heritage sites of cultural significance.

These are unacceptable consequences.

Application No: 10_0001

stephen.o'donoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au

Online: http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=3695

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

Subject: Objection to Cobbora Coal Mine

Dear Mr O'Donoghue,

I would like to put forward my objections to the Cobbora Coal mine for the following reasons:

- The project will destroy approximately 47 square miles of land with important high conservation and agricultural value
- The project will destroy 1,867ha of significant woodland providing habitat for 39 threatened species, including nationally listed endangered species such as: Grassy Box Woodland; 100% loss of the local population of *Tylophora linearis*; the endangered bird species australasian bittern, malleefowl, regent honeyeater, superb parrot; and vulnerable microbat species, as well as the southern long-eared bat, large-eared pied bat.
- It will also destroy a number of threatened woodland birds protected under the NSW Threatened Species Act which have been recorded in the area of impact, including: the brown treecreeper, diamond firetail, glossy black-cockatoo, grey-crowned babbler, hooded robin, speckled warbler, varied sittella, masked owl, barking owl and powerful owl.
- The impacts of the project are unknown, especially on the Mudgee wine and tourism industry. The mine will need to use up to 3,700 ML (million litres) of water per year from surface water and groundwater interception. The use of high security licensed water from the Cudgegong River will threaten the water security of the Mudgee region wine and tourism industries. It could also threaten the long-term security of urban water supply from Windamere Dam.
- The project will generate additional greenhouse gas emissions conflicting with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts
- The mine at \$3.4b is an inappropriate and unjustified investment of taxpayer's money. Taxpayer's money would be better invested in renewable energy sources.
- The project justification is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections

- The project will destroy significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, potentially affecting 79 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites
- It will lock NSW into coal-fired electricity generation until at least 2036.
- The coal produced will be a sub standard product with high ash content, thus causing potential health issues for local residents
- The justification for the project is based on incorrect projections of demand for coal-fired electricity over the next 10 years. Demand has dropped significantly since this project was proposed.
- The proposed biodiversity offset package has not been finalized and is inappropriately based on mine rehabilitation. The replacement of high conservation value habitat especially tree hollows in slow growing woodland species takes centuries.
- The NSW Government has purchased 68 of 90 properties in the affected area. The loss of farming community and broad-scale food production has not been adequately assessed.
- The cost benefit analysis for the project has not taken into account the social disruption; competition for workforce with other industries, particularly the agricultural industry across western NSW; or the costs of major infrastructure upgrades, particularly rail lines, to accommodate additional coal transport.
- Towns and properties along the coal chain will be impacted by additional noise and dust from increased coal train movements.

This project requires closer scrutiny and should not be approved.

Yours sincerely

Linda Bowden

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Sue Bradley, of EPPING NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I am a resident of New South Wales and I'm most concerned about the environmental degradation instigated by your government.

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion of the Cobbora coal mine.

The Cobbora coal mine, if built, will result in serious environmental impacts, including the destruction of more than 1,850 hectares of woodlands, important wildlife habitat, loss of agricultural land, damage to groundwater resources and desecration of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

This proposed coal mine will provide heavily subsidised coal to six large coal fired power stations, locking in decades of carbon pollution, and delaying investment in clean, renewable energy.

Being a state owned coal mine it will cost taxpayers more than \$3 billion surely this money could be better spent on Hospitals, Schools and community facilities.

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Daniel Braithwaite, of Charlestown NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Supports this project

Hi

I would like any information regarding employment for the construction of the mine site, as well as the construction of the rail and water networks. Any information would be helpful. Thank you

Regards

Daniel Braithwaite

Mr Stephen O'Donoghue
Major Planning Assessments
Department of Planning and
Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Elisabeth Brasseur
4 George Street
Mudgee NSW 2850
Ph: (02) 6372 1619

November 9th, 2012

Dear Sir,

Re: Cobbora Coal Project
Application no: 10_0001



I would like my OBJECTION to the proposed large open-cut coalmine at Cobbora near Gulgong to be recorded by your Department. We do not need more coalmines. Mudgee is already affected by huge coalmines between Ulan and Bylong. If the project goes ahead the beautiful woodlands at Cobbora will be destroyed and the environment will take decades or more to recover, if it ever does. Now that most of us accept that Climate Change is upon us, surely taxpayers money should be directed to produce renewable energy, not invested in a coalmine of very poor quality coal, with high ash content. The Cobbora mine will cost taxpayers of NSW a fortune for little return just when our own government is trying to find savings in many other areas. But most important among all issues is our irresponsible attitude towards water. The Cobbora Mine will divert huge quantities of water from the Cudgegong River when we know we are probably reverting to another drought period. This water is ours for survival, not to supply coal to power stations in the Upper Hunter and the Central Coast.

I implore the NSW government to think again about the future of our rivers and instead consider renewable energies as an alternative to our energy needs.

Yours faithfully,

E. Brasseur

Elisabeth Brasseur
Bio



Matthew Riley - Objection to Cobbora Coal project

From: "Meg & Stew" <megandstew@gmail.com>
To: <stephen.o'donoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 11/13/2012 12:31 PM
Subject: Objection to Cobbora Coal project

Dear Sir,

I wish to notify of my objection to the proposed Cobbora coal mine, central west NSW. It is for the following reasons you should not back this project;

1. Cobbora Coal project is inappropriate investment of \$3.4b of NSW taxpayers money
2. The project justification is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections
3. The project will generate additional greenhouse gas emissions conflicting with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts
4. The project will disturb approx 47km² of land with important high conservation and agricultural value
5. The project will destroy 1,867ha of significant woodland providing habitat for 39 threatened species, including nationally listed endangered species
6. The project will destroy significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites
7. The project will compete with the Mudgee wine and tourism industry for water supply during drought conditions

Meg Bray

104 Wallaringa Rd, WALLAROBBA 2420.

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Fay Briggs, of Balmain NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Ref. No: 10-0001 OBJECTION TO THE COBBORA COAL MINE

This email confirms my strong objection to the NSW Government allowing the Cobbora Coal Mine to go ahead and also its subsidy to the Coal Mine owners.

NSW does NOT need one more coal mine. Any government subsidy should be directed to the production of renewable energy. This proposed mine will result in huge environmental damage.

Please abandon this proposed project.

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Geoff Brown, of Cranebrook NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

To Whom It May Concern:

I object to the proposed Cobbora coal mine on all grounds.

Instead of investing \$3,400,000,000 of public money into polluting industries why not use that money to put solar panels on rooftops across NSW. A million houses could have solar panels installed with that amount of money.

Yours truly

Geoff Brown

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Caroline Ceylon Bugden, of Merimbula NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir/Madame

I am very distressed to think that this government is prepared to consider dealing with out moded and poor quality coal as electricity fuel for Coal fired power stations. It seems with Climate change very much at the forefront of every ones lives and felt regularly with our strange weather patterns that should be the last policy this government should be endorsing.

It would seem in direct contradiction to State and Federal government greenhouse gas admissions.

Besides the pollution this high ash type coal would produce, the size of the destructive footprint to the environment is down right appalling-47 square kilometers is a very sizable amount of land

I am aware it comprises high conservation value and includes endangered species. I am a supporter of the superb parrot here on the far south coast at Potoro Palace Nature Sanctuary, which I believe to be threaten by such a development as one of the many birds and animals that would be affected.

I understand the mine will need to use up to 3,700 ML (million litres) of water per year from surface water and groundwater interception. The use of high security licenced water from the Cudgegong River will threaten the water security of the Mudgee region wine and tourism industries. It could also threaten the long -term security of urban water supply from Windamere Dam.

How can this be a good Investment for NSW.

Since this proposal first came forward much has changed including the reduction of coal demand for this same purpose, as well as the price for much better quality black coal.

The loss of food producing land is more of the issue here and this should be restored as soon as possible, this where the money truly lies.

Please I implore your Government to put this highly subsidized poor proposal where it belongs.

In the recycling bin!

Yours Empathetically

Caroline Ceylon Bugden

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Shakti Burke, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I'm writing out of grave concern about our nation's unacceptable contribution to climate change thru the burning of coal.

The Cobbora coal mine, if built, will result in serious environmental impacts, including:

destruction of more than 1,850 hectares of woodlands
loss of agricultural land
damage to groundwater resources
Is it worth it for a few lousy bucks?

It will lock in decades of dirty energy instead of clean renewable.

Have you checkout the state of the Arctic lately? This crucial thermostat for the planet is shrinking and collapsing.
Do we want to add to the problem?

Please turn back! Please don't approve this mine.

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Kay Burns, of TANJA NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I am strongly opposed to the proposal for Cobbora coal mine, if built, will provide heavily subsidised coal to six large coal fired power stations, locking in decades of carbon pollution, and delaying investment in clean, renewable energy.

It will cost taxpayers more than \$3 billion, destroy nearly two thousand hectares of wildlife habitat, and provide half-priced coal to our state's polluting power stations for more than 20 years.

The justification for the mine is based on incorrect projections of demand for coal-fired electricity over the next 10 years. Demand for coal-fired power has dropped significantly since this project was first proposed, as part of the Keneally government's electricity privatisation deal.

Kay Burns
85 Dr George Mt Rd
TANJA
NSW 2550

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Mike Campbell OAM, of Jilliby NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

This is an objection to this proposed application based on the following;

It is extremely poor quality coal with high ash content.. and should not be used as a cheap source for our domestic energy

The quality of coal should be assessed to aerial pollution both in extraction and transport but also in the burning process. A visit to the National Pollution Inventory will show you what exits power stations into the atmosphere. Poor quality coal spikes these figures and therefore impacts on human health. This scenario has been aired for some time.

The clearing of 1867 ha of woodland habitat is frightful. Others have mentioned the species reliant upon this bush community.

Water is our most precious resource. Any major interference with this in the Mudgee region must first be studied deeply. It is irrefutable that creeping climate change is creating drier areas in most of southern Australia due to increased surface temperatures particularly in summer. Water must be retained for critical support of agriculture and communities.

Attention must be paid to those who have studied this region. If the critical natural habitat studies are dismissed in favour of development then we are diminishing our ability to thrive in these rural regions..subsequently towns and jobs will wither as time goes on. Cumulative impacts must be taken seriously.

Mr Laurence G Capill
8 Norman Rd
Mudgee, NSW, 2850
Ph 0449 562 012
Email laurie2109@gmail.com

16th November, 2012

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

Objection to Cobbora Coal Project – (state owned coal mine proposal)
Application No: 10_0001

I wish to object to the approval of the proposed Cobbora Coal Mine on the following grounds:

1. Mining new deposits of coal exacerbates climate disruption.

It is now exceedingly clear that the world is facing major, if not catastrophic, disruptions of the climate system. The latest evidence of this has been the magnitude of Hurricane Sandy which wrought devastation in Haiti and the USA. Following the storm, Mark Fischetti, senior editor at *Scientific American* wrote that climate change is definitely contributing to big storms such as Sandy [Source: <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/2012/10/30/did-climate-change-cause-hurricane-sandy/>]:

“Climate change amps up other basic factors that contribute to big storms. For example, the oceans have warmed, providing more energy for storms. And the Earth’s atmosphere has warmed, so it retains more moisture, which is drawn into storms and is then dumped on us. These changes contribute to all sorts of extreme weather.”

Fischetti quotes NASA's James Hansen:

“Our analysis shows that it is no longer enough to say that global warming will increase the likelihood of extreme weather and to repeat the caveat that no individual weather event can be directly linked to climate change. To the contrary, our analysis shows that, for the extreme hot weather of the recent past, there is virtually no explanation other than climate change.”

This view was reiterated by Professor Will Steffen at his speech to the Carbon Expo in Melbourne (November 8, 2012):

“The massive flooding along the USA East Coast as a result of Hurricane Sandy was a timely reminder of the risks associated with extreme climatic events, and of the potential for climate change to exacerbate these risks. Indeed, there is a strong risk that climate change is already influencing the nature and severity of extreme events such as Hurricane Sandy.”

It is clear that anthropogenic sources of carbon are the main contributor to this climatic disruption. The IPCC writes that:

“The widespread change detected in temperature observations of the surface, free atmosphere and ocean, together with consistent evidence of change in other parts of the climate system, strengthens the conclusion that greenhouse gas forcing is the dominant cause of warming during the past several decades. ... The consistency across different lines of evidence makes a strong case for a significant human influence on observed warming at the surface.”

Indeed, the NSW Government itself recognises anthropogenic climate change as a key threatening process with respect to the Threatened Species Conservation Act [<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/HumanClimateChangeKTPListing.htm>] .

Modelling of the distribution of species under realistic climate change scenarios suggests that anthropogenically-driven climate change will adversely affect many species in NSW and elsewhere.

The Australian Climate Commission states that:

“Human activities – primarily the burning of fossil fuels, like coal and oil, and clearing of forests – are triggering the changes we are witnessing in the global climate.

“Burning fossil fuels puts additional carbon from underground into the atmosphere which increases the greenhouse effect, causing the Earth’s temperature to rise.

“To minimise the risks, we must decarbonise our economy and move to clean energy sources.”

2. The indirect public costs of the project, including climate change impacts have not been incorporated into the project cost-benefit analysis

In its discussion of the implications of Hurricane Sandy, Scientific American reports several studies and projections that look at the likely huge economic costs of climate change as rising sea levels and intense weather events impact on cities, coasts and nations

[<http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/2012/10/31/the-future-according-to-sandy/>].

Australia is also vulnerable to the likely impacts of climate change, as outlined by the CSIRO [<http://www.csiro.au/Outcomes/Climate/Adapting/Climate-Change-Vulnerable.aspx>]. The costs of climate change, including shifts in local weather patterns, increased variability and the incidence of extreme weather events, will include direct environmental and ecosystem costs, economic losses and social costs.

Economic costs will include reduced performance of primary and tourism industries, the costs of adaptation, cost of damage to property and infrastructure caused by extreme weather events, and the cost of infrastructure and works to protect from future extreme events.

Social costs will include costs of population displacement due to changed climatic conditions, increased incidence of tropical diseases, and injury and loss of life associated with extreme weather events.

Garnaut has reported on attempts to model the cost of climate change on the Australian economy [http://www.rossgarnaut.com.au/Documents/GCCR%20final%20report%20pdf/Garnaut_Chapter11.pdf] . It is clear that the costs of unmitigated climate change will be high, if not extreme.

“The case for strong mitigation is a conservative one. Even at the levels of mitigation that now seem to be the best possible, the challenges could be considerable. In the absence of mitigation, we can be reasonably sure that they would be bad beyond normal experience.”

In assessing the Cobbera Project, consideration should be given to some economic modelling of the contribution that this project (or absence of the project) would have on global greenhouse emissions and associated economic, environmental and social costs.

3. Reducing levels of coal production is an imperative goal if we are to ameliorate climate disruption

The Australian Climate Commission [<http://climatecommission.gov.au/causes/fossil-fuels/>] states that:

“Reducing vulnerability and taking pro-active measures to protect ourselves is imperative.”

Professor Steffen [<http://climatecommission.gov.au/basics/speech-the-critical-decade/>] says:

“Most countries around the world have agreed to limit the rise in global average temperature to no more than 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels. In the scientific community we consider 2 degrees as a threshold that should not be crossed because the risks of dangerous changes to the climate are unacceptably high. Some scientists argue that the limit should be 1.5 degrees.

“To achieve a 75% chance of staying below 2 degrees, global emissions from 2000 onwards must be no more than 1 trillion tonnes of CO₂ and must be very close to zero by 2050. So to avoid dangerous changes to the climate, on which we all depend, we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions to nearly zero in 38 years. “

Prof. Steffen notes that, during the first decade of the 21st Century, we as a planet are significantly exceeding this allowable carbon budget, having already emitted 37% of the allowable 1 trillion tonnes CO₂.

“Clearly the rate must come down quickly if we are to have a chance of staying within the budget.”

“[T]he recent rush to develop even more fossil fuels here and in other parts of the world – new coal deposits, shale oil and coal-seam gas – is inconsistent with the need to reduce emissions rapidly and to stay within the carbon budget. In fact, the budget approach puts tight constraints on even the well-known, conventional, economically recoverable reserves of fossil fuels, such as coal deposits.

If all of these well-known, conventional sources were burned, total emissions would be about 2.8 trillion tonnes of CO₂, and possibly as high as 3.0 trillion tonnes, resulting in a massive blow-out of the carbon budget and almost certainly leading to what can only be described as very dangerous changes to the climate system.”

Prof. Steffen concludes:

“The simple fact is that we’ve got to leave a lot of fossil fuels in the ground.

“Unless effective action is taken, the global climate may be so irreversibly altered we will struggle to maintain our present way of life. ”

4. Not proceeding with the Cobbora Mine development provides opportunities to hasten the transition to renewable energy resources.

If the Cobbora Project were not to proceed, the fuel necessary to operate the Delta Electricity generators at Wallerawang and Mt Piper would have to be sourced from existing mine capacity or their electricity output reduced, to be substituted by alternative energy resources. In either case, this would enhance Australia's transition to a renewable energy base.

In the case of sourcing coal from existing mine capacity, this would increase demand relative to supply, resulting in an increase in the cost of coal across the board. This in turn would make alternative energy sources more cost-competitive.

In the case of direct substitution by renewables, this would increase the scale of deployment of alternative energy systems, thereby serving to reduce the marginal cost of the alternative energy.

Furthermore, the recent trend in electricity demand reduction needs to be considered. It is possible that continuation of this trend may obviate the need for this resource to be developed at all. At the very least, postponing its approval and development may lead to higher electricity prices and an enhancement of this energy conservation trend.

5. If the Cobbora Mine Project proceeds, it should be conditional on 100% carbon capture and storage (CCS) for all coal mined and fugitive greenhouse gas emissions

Given the strength of the imperative to reduce fossil carbon emissions, such a condition on the mine project proceeding must be the only environmentally prudent measure, if the project is to be approved.

In order that the full environmental, social and economic cost is not carried by the community at large, it would be most appropriate that the costs of CCS be carried by the proponent. In this way, electricity costs would better reflect the real cost of fossil fuel use, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of alternative energy resources and the more rapid transition to a zero-carbon Australian economy.

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Kristi Carolan, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Supports this project

To whom it may concern

The Cobbora mine will be of great benefit to our business and the local community.

It will create more jobs reducing unemployment and work for many local business.

The ability to supply competitively priced electricity is also a great benefit to NSW residents recently experiencing electricity price rises.

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Alan Carpenter, of na NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Good Morning :

I would like to strongly voice my objection to The Cobbora Coal Mine Proposal. This would cause devastation to a huge area of Wildlife habitat. If this Coal Mine is approved decades of increased Carbon pollution will be locked in.

The NSW Government should move forward with reducing Carbon emissions & developing existing technology for cleaner sustainable energy.

Rejecting this destructive near sighted proposal will reflect the majority of community opinion & provide the NSW Government an opportunity to win popular support thanks.

Regards:

Alan Carpenter

Department of Planning and Infrastructure,
To Whom it may concern.

My name is Michael Cleary. I live in the
Mudgee region 82 Beragoo Rd Grattai
2850.

I do strongly object to the development
of the Cobra mine proposal.

The project will generate approx 615 million
tonnes of greenhouse gas. It is in direct
conflict ~~at~~ State and Federal Government
policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The project will use important high conservation
and agricultural land. The project will compete
with Mudgee Wine and Tourism Industry
and ~~use~~ use much of our Water (I should
I say waste our water clearing low grade
coal. They propose to mine 20 mtpa
to produce only 12 mtpa of coal of extremely
poor quality.

I hope this project does not get
off the ground and the Government
thinks more about Renewables and
the future. Cobra Coal mine is a
Bad proposal and should not go ahead.

Yours Sincerely
M. Cleary.

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Eleanor Cook, of Coolah NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Comments on this project

Hello

I would like to express my concern with our local government organisation 'the Warrumbungle Shire Council' (WSC) who I believe is stretched and under resourced. In light of this I propose that the Cobbora Mine Holding be encouraged to allocate funds towards the WSC to enable them to recruit capacity so as to negotiate the best outcomes for the communitys' economic, social, environment future, to avoid pit falls as a result of the mine as other mining communities have incurred. And to negotiate positive growth outcomes.

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Simon Cook, of OLD TOONGABBIE NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm pleased there is opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion. I must express my strongest objection and concerns, that this Proposed Coal Mine is not in the public interest, and certainly can not support the Government in developing this.

I believe the people who voted for you don't give you permission to spend this money in this way. The proposed mine is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections. The demand for electricity has gone down so another coal mine is not justified. Further The Cobbora Coal project will cost NSW taxpayers \$3.4 billion.

The project will generate additional greenhouse gas emissions conflicting with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts.

The Hunter already has massive damage done to it from open cut coal mines. I ask you do not destroy this land with important high conservation and agricultural value. The project will compete with the Mudgee wine and tourism industry for water supply during drought conditions. We know that due to climate change there will be less rain. Surely the local townspeople and the farmers deserve to have enough water to continue to live there and carry out their business.

The project will destroy 1,867ha of significant woodland providing habitat for 39 threatened species, including nationally listed endangered species. Once these species become extinct they are gone forever. We have a duty of care to protect them for future generations.

As well as damage to the environment the project will destroy significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. We severely impacted upon the Aboriginal people and destroyed their habitat and food source when Europeans came to Australia so surely today we know better and have an obligation to protect what remains as best practice in government.

Essentially this Cobbora Mine will be a disaster for NSW, and I ask you do not give it consent.

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Lyn Coombe, of lue NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Objection to Cobbora Coal Project Application NO 10.0001

I live in the region of Mid Western Regional Council. I am very concerned re the above project, which should not proceed. Some of my objections are as below

1..Large amts water extracted from the Cudgegong river, competing with other water usage in the area, We have experienced many periods of severe droughts.

2... This project was based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projection. making it an unfeasable investment of taxpayers money.

3...Aboriginal sites will be destroyed

4...A large amt of woodland would be destroyed which provide habitat for 39 threatened species.

5... Food security is becoming a increasing concern, Australia has a responsibility to provide food to third world communities , broadscale food production will be lost.

6...Increase in trains through gulgong, ulan, wollara and bylong, increasing noise and air pollution., health risks.

7 More properties will need to be bought for project to proceed, destroying communities, lifestyle, farm workforce. causing stress and mental health problems to many people.

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Geoffrey Copeland, of Willoughby NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I and my extended family strongly object to approval being given for the Cobbora Mine project to proceed on the grounds that it will seriously degrade the environmental integrity of the area, and will also contribute to ongoing support to an energy industry which operates in an inefficient and environmentally costly way.

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Sean Corrigan, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir/Madam, and Ministers,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed coal mine.

My Public submission on the Cobbora coal mine

I am strongly opposed to the creation of this mine to go ahead, and i urge you to abandon this costly, polluting and destructive proposal.

Key points i refer to in opposition follow...

Key Points of Objection:

Cobbora Coal project is inappropriate investment of \$3.4 billion of NSW taxpayers' money

The project justification is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections

The project will generate additional greenhouse gas emissions conflicting with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts

The project will disturb approx 47km² of land with important high conservation and agricultural value

The project will destroy 1,867ha of significant woodland providing habitat for 39 threatened species, including nationally listed endangered species

The project will destroy significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites

The project will compete with the Mudgee wine and tourism industry for water supply during drought conditions

Background:

Cobbora Coal project is proposed in central west NSW north-west of Mudgee and east of Dubbo.

It is a state-owned coal mining project tied to the sale of the power stations. It will lock NSW into coal-fired electricity generation until at least 2036.

The proposal is to mine 20mtpa (million tonnes per annum) to produce 12mtpa of usable coal - it is extremely poor quality product with high ash content. The project aims to provide cheap domestic coal to power stations in the Upper Hunter and Central Coast. The health impacts of using poor quality coal have not been assessed.

The justification for the project is based on incorrect projections of demand for coal-fired electricity over the next 10 years. Demand has dropped significantly since this project was proposed.

The price of black coal on the export market has also dropped below the projections used to justify the need to source cheaper coal for domestic use.

The mine will cost the NSW taxpayer approx \$3.4 billion and will be run at a loss. It is a direct subsidy to power generators in NSW. The argument for continued coal-fired electricity in comparison to the long-term benefits of renewable energy sources has not been made. Taxpayer's money would be better invested in renewable energy sources.

The project has a very large footprint and will cause major environmental impacts on woodland habitat as well as groundwater and surface water sources and loss of at least 79 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

The clearing of 1,867ha woodland habitat will impact on species listed for national protection: eg Grassy Box Woodland; endangered and vulnerable plants, including 100% loss of the local population of *Tylophora linearis*, endangered bird species including australasian bittern, malleefowl, regent honeyeater, superb parrot; and vulnerable microbat species - southern long-eared bat, large-eared pied bat.

Also a large number of threatened woodland birds protected under the NSW Threatened Species Act were recorded in the area of impact - brown tree creeper, diamond firetail, glossy black-cockatoo, grey-crowned babbler, hooded robin, speckled warbler, varied sittella, masked owl, barking owl, powerful owl.

The proposed biodiversity offset package has not been finalized and is inappropriately based on mine rehabilitation. The replacement of high conservation value habitat especially tree hollows in slow growing woodland species takes centuries.

The mine will need to use up to 3,700 ML (million litres) of water per year from surface water and groundwater interception. The use of high security licenced water from the Cudgegong River will threaten the water security of the Mudgee region wine and tourism industries. It could also threaten the long -term security of urban water supply from Windamere Dam.

The NSW Government has purchased 68 of 90 properties in the affected area. The loss of farming community and broadscale food production has not been adequately assessed.

The cost benefit analysis for the project has not taken into account the social disruption; competition for workforce with other industries, particularly the agricultural industry across western NSW; or the costs of major infrastructure upgrades, particularly rail lines, to accommodate additional coal transport.

Towns and properties along the coal chain will be impacted by additional noise and dust from increased coal train movements.

16 November 2012

TRANSMITTAL VIA EMAIL

Mr Stephen O'Donoghue
Planning Officer
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
23-33 Bridge Street
Sydney NSW

Dear Stephen,

Re: Cobbora Coal Project Environmental Assessment and Project Application

Along with my wife Colleen we currently hold land on the eastern side of the land held by Cobbora Holding Company Pty Limited of which several acres of our property are in the proposed exploration licence.

As long term residents of the area we currently have a number of issues which we feel have not been adequately addressed by the proposed Cobbora Coal Mine Environmental Assessment. I have outlined these below for reference:

- We currently rely heavily on under-groundwater for stock and domestic purposes and especially during dry spells we are totally reliant on these aquifers for watering all our stock. Modelling presented within the Environmental Assessment appears to show a impact to the Alluvial Aquifers , however we are still unsure the effect this will have our business or water quality and quantity. This is a significant concern to us as to lose our underground water supply would render our property unviable and should be further addressed by Cobbora Coal.
- We also maintain reservations to the potential impacts from noise and air quality from the proposed operations. We recognise that the Environmental Assessment has modelled these potential impacts and the results indicate that we will not be affected. Our concern primarily relates to winds within the local area from the South-West which will amplify these issues to our residence and our property. These are unknown factors at present but any requests to have these monitored prior to operations beginning have been ignored.
- As dedicated life-long farmers, we do maintain issues with Land Management with Cobbora Coal and their inability to control weeds and feral animals - with inadequate weed or feral animal control undertaken on properties acquired by Cobbora Coal is not ideal and is likely to cause huge impact to adjoining properties, like ourselves, and introduce financial impost to our business from the need to undertake additional weed control / feral animal controls programs within our landholding
- A major concern to us is the land held by Cobbora Coal presenting as a major bushfire hazard due to the lack of residents, which has resulted in the build up of fuel and inadequate bushfire prevention.
- We are also concerned our current land holding is being devalued as a result of having no neighbours competing for the purchase of our land and any potential purchaser being deterred away as a result of not wishing to leave near a Coal Mine. We maintain these reservations.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Yours sincerely



Gordon Cox

OBJECTION TO COBBORA COAL PROJECT

Application No: 10_0001



Hilary Crawford
48 Mudgee Street
Rylstone NSW 2841

13 November 2102

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

Dear Sir/Madam

Objection to Cobbora Coal Project



Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to comment on the Cobbora Coal Project.

I live in the Central West and take a great interest in the district and in matters affecting its agricultural sustainability, its bio-diversity and its people. I have travelled around the area of the proposed project and was surprised by its very large footprint.

I wish to object to the Cobbora Coal Project on the following grounds:

- 1 The large open cut mine (47 square kilometres) will have a negative impact on a significant farming community, both socially and economically.
- 2 It will disturb an important area of food production when food security is becoming an important issue worldwide.
- 3 It will use an enormous amount of water (up to 3,700ML) from surface water, ground water and the Cudgegong River, thus threatening the water security of the Mudgee region.
- 4 It will involve the clearing of 1867 ha of woodland habitat, impacting on endangered bird species e.g. the regent honeyeater, the superb parrot, and the Australian bittern as well as threatened woodland birds e.g. the diamond firetail, the hooden robin, the speckled warbler, the barking owl, the powerful owl and the masked owl. The clearing will further reduce the little remaining woodland in NSW which vital for preserving bio-diversity.
- 5 The project will cause the loss of at least 79 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.
- 6 The mine will run at a loss and will cost the NSW taxpayer approximately \$3.4 billion dollars, money that could have been spent on investing in renewable energy.

- 7 It will generate about 25 million tonnes of additional greenhouse gas emissions, conflicting with both Federal and State policy to reduce greenhouse emissions.

From a social, environmental and economic perspective the project does not benefit NSW, especially in the long term.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully

Hilary Crawford

Hilary Crawford

New South Wales Government

Department of Planning

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Dr John Crichton and Mrs Joy Roby , of Orange NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Objection to Proposed Cobbora Coal Mine
CC Premier O'Farrel and minister Hazzard

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are long time residents of Orange in Central NSW. We are both university graduates with honours and I am a member of the Australian Society of Soil Science Inc. We welcome the opportunity no comment on the proposed expansion and to add to the chorus of dissenting voices.

The Cobbora Coal project is a proposed taxpayer funded and state-owned coal-mining project, which will lock NSW into grossly polluting coal-fired electricity generation for the foreseeable future. The coal is of poor quality and the transport and disposal of enormous quantities of waste ash does not appear to have been addressed. In line with government policy it will almost certainly be transported by road. Equally, the coal produced will likely be transported by road. Our roads are already clogged with vehicles transporting bulk goods that would be much better sent by rail. Where will the waste be dumped?

The justification for the project is based on inflated projections of demand for coal-fired electricity over the next 10 years. Has the argument for continued coal-fired electricity generation been made in comparison to the long-term and sustainable benefits of renewable energy sources?

Taxpayer's money would be far better invested in renewable energy sources, particularly for base load power generation.

Such a large project will require the clearing of nearly 2000ha of wooded habitat including the habitat of endangered and vulnerable animals and plants. It will also consume large quantities of fresh water at a time when global warming is accelerating, to the detriment of river flows and to agriculture.

You will appreciate that there are very many more and serious objections to this ill-conceived project that we do not have time to list.

Yours sincerely,

(E-mail signed by)

Dr John Crichton and Mrs Joy Roby

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Felicity Crombach, of greens, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

The Cobbora coal mine, if built, will cost taxpayers more than \$3 billion, destroy nearly two thousand hectares of wildlife habitat, and provide half-priced coal to our state's polluting power stations for more than 20 years.

The justification for the mine is based on incorrect projections of demand for coal-fired electricity over the next 10 years. Demand for coal-fired power has dropped significantly since this project was first proposed, as part of the Keneally government's electricity privatisation deal.

Renewable energy is getting cheaper and easier to implement so coal will become even more irrelevant as time goes on.

Andreas Dalman
93 Prince Edward Ave
Earlwood, NSW 2206

9th November 2012

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a currently resident of one of Sydney's inner suburbs, however I spent considerable time in my youth living close to nature and became aware early of the value of nature and the environment in human existence. I live in rental accommodation Earlwood in a 900sqm block for the simple reason I need to be able to see trees when I am away from my desk at work and feel it's necessary to get my hands into the soil and grow some of my own produce to affirm my values that organic, sustainable and locally produced is best.

I am a member of the Wilderness Society, Get!Up, AAVAZ and I am on the Nature Council Of NSW mailing list among others. While I actively support many actions these groups champion, it is the environmental issues which resonate the strongest with me since the way we leave the environment is the legacy we leave our children and future generations and what will ultimately be used to measure our integrity and value in the big picture.

I am outraged to discover that my tax dollars are being funneled into the Cobbora Coal project. I strongly object to being forcibly made to support such an outdated energy model which will generate additional greenhouse gases and is in conflict with the State and Federal policies in place to reduce climate change. The damage to high conservation and agricultural value land is totally unacceptable as is the threat to threatened and endangered species. If this was not enough the insult to Aboriginal communities is heinous since the project would destroy significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. Finally and not least important are the concerns about the ongoing water consumption of the project which would compete with the established Mudgee wine and tourism industries.

As is so often the case with these types of short sighted and un-sustainable projects, insufficient research has been done into the full implications and impacts to the environment, existing infrastructure and communities.

I trust these reasons are sufficient to reject the Cobbora Coal project and use the money instead for sustainable ethically responsible ventures.

Yours sincerely,



Andreas Dalman

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Caroline Davis, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I wish to express my very strong objections to this incredibly ill- considered proposal. If our money were spent on sustainable energy solutions, of which there are a growing number, there would be no need to pollute our planet in this way. I object strongly to my tax being spent on any more coal-fired, mines. Rather spend it on research into clean fuels, education, or health the life giving areas

I find it hard to understand how educated ministers - who must be aware of the extraordinarily far-reaching dangers of climate change - can even think up with such a destructive proposal.

Please, heed the voices of your tax payers and concerned citizens, and remember you are meant to be the servants of the people.

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Charlotte Davis, of Nowra NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I am appalled by this proposal and I thus welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion.

The Cobbora coal mine, if built, will cost taxpayers more than \$3 billion, destroy nearly two thousand hectares of wildlife habitat, and provide half-priced coal to our state's polluting power stations for more than 20 years. The justification for the mine is based on incorrect projections of demand for coal-fired electricity over the next 10 years. Demand for coal-fired power has dropped significantly since this project was first proposed, as part of the Keneally government's electricity privatisation deal.

The mine will cost the NSW taxpayer approx \$3.4 billion and will be run at a loss. It is a direct subsidy to power generators in NSW. The argument for continued coal-fired electricity in comparison to the long-term benefits of renewable energy sources has not been made. Taxpayer's money would be better invested in renewable energy sources.

The project has a very large footprint and will cause major environmental impacts on woodland habitat as well as groundwater and surface water sources and loss of at least 79 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

The clearing of 1,867ha woodland habitat will impact on species listed for national protection: eg Grassy Box Woodland; endangered and vulnerable plants, including 100% loss of the local population of *Tylophora linearis*, endangered bird species including australasian bittern, malleefowl, regent honeyeater, superb parrot; and vulnerable microbat species - southern long-eared bat, large-eared pied bat.

Also a large number of threatened woodland birds protected under the NSW Threatened Species Act were recorded in the area of impact - brown treecreeper, diamond firetail, glossy black-cockatoo, grey-crowned babbler, hooded robin, speckled warbler, varied sittella, masked owl, barking owl, powerful owl.

The proposed biodiversity offset package has not been finalized and is inappropriately based on mine rehabilitation. The replacement of high conservation value habitat especially tree hollows in slow growing woodland species takes centuries.

The mine will need to use up to 3,700 ML (million litres) of water per year from surface water and groundwater interception. The use of high security licenced water from the Cudgegong River will threaten the water security of the Mudgee region wine and tourism industries. It could also threaten the long -term security of urban water supply from Windamere Dam.

The NSW Government has purchased 68 of 90 properties in the affected area. The loss of farming community and broadscale food production has not been adequately assessed.

The cost benefit analysis for the project has not taken into account the social disruption; competition for workforce with other industries, particularly the agricultural industry across western NSW; or the costs of major infrastructure upgrades, particularly rail lines, to accommodate additional coal transport.

Towns and properties along the coal chain will be impacted by additional noise and dust from increased coal train movements.

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Felicity Davis, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I am appalled at this proposal, to open a huge coal mine at Cobbora. IT MUST NOT GO AHEAD.

What are you thinking of? Lining a few peoples' pockets for the sake of the survival of the planet? It is imperative that we shut down coal mines and coal fired power stations right now. It is NOT exaggerating, we must act now to prevent catastrophic weather events, that will kill thousands of people in the near future. Do you not realise we have run out of room in the atmosphere for any more Carbon Dioxide. It is as simple as that.

Politicians will be held accountable for their actions. When will you politicians stop acting for the greedy self-interested power brokers and start acting for the ordinary decent people of the world. Imagine the Royal Commission into the Fossil Fuel Industry that we will have, if we survive to carry it out.

I rely on your integrity and humanity to put a stop to this proposal.

George Dionyssopoulos
6 Grace Avenue
Frenchs Forest NSW 2086
09 November 2012

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed Cobbora Coal Project expansion. The project appears to be completely at odds with Australia's strategy to mitigate the effects of climate change. Our energy and funding should be directed towards the development of clean, renewable energy, not the outdated coal industry.

In summary, I am strongly opposed to the Cobbora Coal Project for the following reasons:

1. Cobbora Coal project is inappropriate investment of \$3.4 billion of NSW taxpayers' money
2. The project justification is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections
3. The project will generate additional greenhouse gas emissions conflicting with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts
4. The project will disturb approx 47km² of land with important high conservation and agricultural value
5. The project will destroy 1,867ha of significant woodland providing habitat for 39 threatened species, including nationally listed endangered species
6. The project will destroy significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites
7. The project will compete with the Mudgee wine and tourism industry for water supply during drought conditions

Thank you for your time in reading my submission.

Yours sincerely,
George Dionyssopoulos
And Alexandra Dionyssopoulos

From: Colin Dorman <bolaro@bigpond.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 11/16/2012 4:31 pm
Subject: Cobbora Coal Mine Environmental Assessment Submission.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to comment on the Air Quality Assessment within the Environmental Assessment.

The Director General's Requirements for Air Quality are wide and comprehensive. They include a quantitative assessment on the effects of mining activity on Air Quality. This requires real-time air quality monitoring and predictive Meteorological Modelling.

The data collected for much of this modelling and assessment came from two meteorological monitoring sites within the project area in the period November 2010 to November 2011. One of these stations (MET 02) delivered incomplete data and did not complete approved methods for modelling. Prevailing winds have a huge bearing on air quality and dust deposition. Wind rose comparisons have been drawn from information collected between August 23rd 2011 and 3rd November 2011. This is a very narrow period and gives a false impression of wind direction and wind strengths.

Many of the models that are presented rely on this information to draw conclusions relative to air quality and winds regime. (Appendix M) Weather conditions for the monitoring period November 2010 to November 2011 were far from normal for this region. Record rainfall and cool conditions associated with an El Nino event across Eastern Australia were very unseasonal and far from normal or average. I believe this will give rise to false and misleading information, thus causing air pollution over a greater area than what is stated in the Environmental Assessment. South Westerly winds can dominate this area for weeks at a time, especially in the summer months.

I have lived and worked in this area for over 35 years as a farmer and I am conscious of the surrounding environment and prevailing weather conditions.

Other abnormalities in this assessment are:

- * using data collected at Tamworth and Bathurst. These cities are in different climatic zones.

- * section M figure 20 comparisons between Bathurst and Cobbora. This graph is presented in a manner that hides some data.

- * section M 5.3.3. There is currently no monitoring of Total Suspended Particles in the project area. How can a comparison be drawn if there is no base data. It would be best practice management to know the level of pollutant before the commencement of the project, given that in year 3 diesel fuel consumption is estimated at 54,200,000 litres and explosive use at 16,700 tonnes.

Colin Dorman.

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**Juliet Duffy, of Regional Enviroscience Pty Ltd,
made the following submission on the project:**

Cobbora Coal Project



Supports this project

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to offer my support to the above project. Our company is based in Dubbo and to have the potential to secure projects that are of a significant duration, will enable a long term strategy for providing local employment through science based traineeships and scholarships.

Yours Faithfully

Juliet Duffy MSM Syd Uni
Occupational Hygienist
Regional Enviroscience Pty Ltd

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david eckstein, of rozelle NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I object to the proposal as it assumes a continued level of reliance on traditional coal fired power as an energy source that does not fit with national and state-based policy direction and commitment to a reduced reliance on high greenhouse gas (GHG) emitting energy sources. GHG emissions from electricity consumption actually fell by circa 2 % in the past year in part as a result of energy efficiency and renewable energy interventions demonstrating that there are genuine alternatives to coal fired energy.

The communities of the hunter valley continue to bear the health impact legacies of a century of coal mining, it is completely irresponsible to lock in to continued emissions impacts on existing communities and future generations. The mine proposal flies in the face of all ESD commitments made over the past decade and a half in NSW and nationally.

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Ronald Edwards, of Woodford NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I don't understand why we are continuing to fund coal fired power stations. Why not put the 3 billion dollars towards clean energy! I find it hard to believe that our governments are completely ignoring the problems associated with global warming! When are we going to start doing something for the following generations? Surely our children and our grandchildren deserve nothing less from our generation!

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Tony Edge, of Newport NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Stephen O'Donoghue,

I wish to submit an objection to the Cobbora Coal Mine.

I am a resident in the Northern Beaches in Sydney.

We use renewable energy for about 1/3 of our energy use, this is with photovoltaic panels and solar hot water and energy saving measures and we do our best to ensure our environment is supported by using real renewable energy.

I wish to give my objections with the following points:

Using NSW taxpayers money (my taxes) for a project involving dirty coal, a non-renewable resource, is not acceptable

This project will not assist us in reducing our carbon emissions, it will only add to them, this energy source is running out, is dirty and totally out of date.

Our energy demand in NSW is reduced by many Australians like us using Solar Hot water and photovoltaic panels, so there is no justification to spend any money on digging up coal.

Coal prices are dropping, China is using less of this dirty fuel, in fact they are now the leaders in making photovoltaic panels.

The project will disturb and destroy an important conservation area, agricultural land and aboriginal sites.

The Mudgee area is a great tourist area and income from the beautiful landscape and wine areas will be compromised with this mine (we have seen the upper hunter where I come from destroyed by coal mining) .

This mine will compete with farms and communities in the area for water in times of drought.

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Janet Ellis, of Beecroft NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir,

Please find attached my objection to the development of Cobbora Coal Mine. This government clearly either doesn't understand the science of climate change, or can't see past the very short term economics of the coal industry, or both. Instead of propping up the coal and gas industries, NSW could be moving to 21st century renewables technologies. I think that the public would be very willing to buy lottery tickets, bonds or other financial instruments if they were assured that a large scale solar plant would be built in NSW. Coal is unhealthy, destructive and leaves a long-lasting blot on our landscape for a very short term gain. We don't need coal. Coal is on its way out, both here and overseas, and the government should be planning for a rapid move away from it.

Please consider my submission.

Yours sincerely

Janet

- Attachment: [Objection to Cobbora Coal Mine 10 Nov 12x.pdf](#)

10TH November, 2012

Beecroft
NSW 2119

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Cobbora Coal Mine, Ref No: 10-0001

I am constantly appalled at the NSW Government's lack of understanding regarding the urgency of tackling climate change and this government's continuing support for new coal mines and coal seam gas extraction. The proposed Cobbora Coal Mine is yet another example of short term gain triumphing over long term planning and will result in long term disaster which our generation will have to answer for.

As a long time resident of NSW, a former taxpayer (now a self-funded retired) and a person with a science background, I am astounded at the government's ability to ignore the science and take a "she'll be right" attitude to the future when the facts tell us otherwise. The idea is not to grab as much money as possible before disaster hits, the idea is to stop the disaster happening in the first place. I am, of course, referring to climate change

Thankfully other governments are taking action and the demand for our coal is decreasing as is the demand for electricity locally. How then can the NSW government justify approval for another coal mine which will result in loss of habitat, threats to endangered and vulnerable species, not to mention the loss of productive farmland and the poorly reported health effects, particularly on children, from coal dust, noise and other disruption. Mines are not just holes in the ground, which are bad enough, they also require trucks and trains, bright lights and the pounding of explosions on otherwise quiet communities.

In addition coal mines use water. Water is a scarce commodity in rural NSW in drought times, which will become more frequent as we warm. Using water to produce coal, which will exacerbate global warming further, is madness. Please re-think your approach and say no to new coal mines. We don't need them, we don't want them and there are much better alternatives.

The justification for this mine needs to be re-assessed in the light of current demand and future projections for coal sales and prices. Whatever benefits the mine purports to have, they are outweighed by the destruction it will bring, including almost 2,000 hectares of habitat and 79 Aboriginal sites. The impacts on local communities, particularly in this case, the wine and tourism industries, need to be assessed in social as well as economic terms, and over a long period. Please read Sharyn Munro's book, *Rich Land, Wasteland*, if you don't understand what the impacts on local communities are. I don't think you would be approving such development if you had.

Australia is a rich country and we can live in a smarter way using renewable energy if we have the political will to get on with it. Clearly the political will is not present in this government, which doesn't understand the impact of what it is doing. You need more people in government with science backgrounds or who have a good understanding of science. You certainly need a Minister for the Environment who understands his or her portfolio better than Robyn Parker and who is a strong voice for the environment, which can't speak for itself. We need more intelligent thinking in government which will set this state up for a 21st century future. We don't need more coal. There is no justification whatsoever for new mines.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Ellis

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Janet Ellis.

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Julia Elphinstone, of South Coogee NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear NSW Government,

Please don't approve this mine. Please invest our \$3billion in part in green energy, and the remainder in controls and education to reduce consumption! If all machines were obliged to have a sensible off switch to cut standby power, most homes and businesses cut cut at least 30% of their consumption!