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Cita Murphy, of THIRLMERE NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I am writing in regard to the planned Cobbora Coal Mine.

Instead of destroying nearly 2000 hectares of valuable native wilderness and agricultural land . Why not put the mine underground using the older coal extraction methods to minimise destruction to the local enviroment.

If you cannot used this method then look to other ways of providing power like solar and scrap the plans for the proposed mine.

We must put the Enviroment First and the health of the people of New South Wales.

Yours Sincerely

Cita Murphy

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Peter Nicholas, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Sir,

I write to record my disgust on hearing of this thoroughly anti-social, even evil, proposal. I cannot see one positive reason for increasing our contribution to climate contamination and environmental destruction both above and below ground.

A dirty dollar for some one?

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Annie Nielsen, of Winston Hills NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am the secretary of Parramatta Climate Action Network

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion.

The Cobbora Coal project will cost NSW taxpayers \$3.4 billion. 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 The proposed mine is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections.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.

The project will generate additional greenhouse gas emissions conflicting with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts. Think about the future of our children and grandchildren; leave them with a safe world without more droughts, floods and possibly an environment not suitable to live in.

The Hunter has had massive damage done to it from open cut coal mines. Don't 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 killed Aborigines and destroyed their habitat and food source when Europeans came to Australia but surely today we know better and have an obligation to protect what is left.

Yours sincerely,

Annie Nielsen

Member

Parramatta Climate Action Network

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Martin Oliver, of Goonellabah NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I am writing to express my strong opposition to proposal number 10 - 0001 to build the Cobbora coal mine.

Far from boosting the economy, construction of this mine will rob \$3 billion from taxpayers in order to provide cheap subsidised coal to power stations for the next twenty years, locking in decades of unnecessary carbon pollution..

Furthermore, if built, it will involve the destruction of nearly two thousand acres of wildlife habitat, the loss of agricultural land, damage to groundwater resources and desecration of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

Electricity demand has been decreasing since privatisation under the Keneally government and will continue to decrease in proportion to rising public awareness of the pollution and ravaging of the environment it causes.

More and more people are demanding clean, sustainable, renewable energy. Investment in renewable energy sources would place Australia firmly at the forefront of the global economy, rather than shaming this country for its greed and short-sightedness.

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Kate O'Loughlin, of New Brighton NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I object to the destruction of wildlife in order for more coal power, which will cost us more in the long term and will be extremley outdated source of power soon. Please show what an extremely intelligent and forward thinking state we are and invest in the future with cleaner energy and future thinking

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Diane O'Mara, of Gulgong NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Objection to Cobbora Coal Project

Application No: 10_0001

My objections to this mine are on environmental grounds, and on water security for the Mudgee region.

The endangered ecological Grassy Box Woodland now covers 0.01 percent of the area it once covered before European settlement. Currently Australia has the fastest extinction rate of flora and fauna in the world. There has been a massive clearing of this woodland in NSW with the mining boom, substantially increasing the list of vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered ecological communities. The Cobbora Mine Project will destroy almost 2000 hectares of this significant woodland, endangering habitat for 39 threatened species, including those covered by Federal legislation.

The open cut mine will also take over or affect almost 50 square kms of land with these high conservation values, or land that has important agricultural benefits. Seventy-nine significant Indigenous cultural heritage sites will also be destroyed by this mine.

The Cobbora proposal will also have far-reaching consequences for the groundwater and river systems of the Cudgegong. As the ash content of the coal is high, a high volume of water is required to wash it. 3.7gigalitres of water per year are to be directed to the mine for this purpose. This is the current water use for everything in the Cudgegong Valley at present, whether it is for town water, the wine industry or irrigation for agriculture. To take this amount of water from the Murray-Darling Basin in the present circumstances is crazy, and downright wrong for Mudgee's tourism and wine industries. The urban water security from Windamere Dam could also be threatened in times of extended drought. Groundwater is not suitable for use as town water as it is so heavy mineralized.

Given the problems with lowered electricity demand, the reduced coal price, the emergence of renewable energies as a viable alternative, the social impacts of mining, the effect on agriculture and our water systems, our environment, climate change.....This mine must not go ahead.

Yours sincerely

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Vivienne Ortega, of Heidelberg Heights VIC, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Mdm/Sir

I take an interest in conservation and environmental issues, and I am a wildlife advocate with the Australian Wildlife Protection Council.

I am concerned about the Cobbora Coal mine and it's potential devastation.

The Cobbora Coal Project is an open cut mine that will primarily supply thermal coal to power stations in NSW for electricity generation. The project will produce up to 12 million tonnes per annum of coal when operational. In words, it sounds very promising, but at what cost?

While other states and nations are investing in wind and solar, the O'Farrell government is busy locking down decades worth of dirty coal. Cobbora would add another 25 million tonnes of CO2 per year to NSW's emissions compared to clean energy alternatives.

The subsidies needed to keep the mine running and the fossil-fuel lobby happy will unfairly disadvantage renewable energy, which will be forced to compete against power stations fuelled with below-cost coal. What's the point of the carbon tax if States are in the "business as usual" of locking into a coal-based mining economy?

The Cobbora coal mine will result in serious environmental impacts, including the destruction of more than 1,850 hectares of woodlands, loss of agricultural land, damage to groundwater resources and desecration of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. It's counter-productive to make a step forward economically, but lose the land, our cultural and environmental heritage and habitats for wildlife - already under so many threats to their existence.

Coalmining leaves large tracts of sterile landscape, punctuated by former open-cut voids filled with toxic fluid. Creek beds and aquifers are punctured and cracked. Contaminated mine water is released into river systems, which adds to salinity and harms native species. It's about abandoning long term costs and destruction for addiction to coal, economic growth at all costs.

Australia will continue to be addicted to fossil fuels while we have no population plan for our nation. Achieving a truly sustainable future depends upon the decisions and choices we make today. Harnessing the clean and free power of wind is one part of the jigsaw of addressing climate change, but another is limiting demand through a population policy for Australia. There appears to be little inclination of governments

and economists to abandon their enthusiasm for the growth-based economic model that served us well in the past, but can't be maintained on a finite planet, in a country with large tracts of desert. We are fouling our own land, our own nests!

Australia has the abysmal record of the highest mammal extinction in the modern world. Koalas that were once plentiful are struggling to survive, and our iconic kangaroos are largely considered a "pest" or a "resource" due to industries and agriculture.

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. It's assumed that habitats of native species can just be plundered without a duty-of-care, as if they were all resources just for one species - homo sapiens!

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.

Modern humans have been walking the Earth for 200,000 years, and with good decisions and good judgement, we can continue to live dignified and fulfilling for another 200,000 years - but not on the present rate of destruction, consumption of resources, climate change and present rates of population growth that is demanded by the tunnel-visioned economic-growth at all costs paradigm.

Australia as a leading nation should be setting the global pace for sustainable economic decisions, and the use of renewable energy for a post-carbon future, not using the past as a model for the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my opinion.

Garry Owers BAppSc (Hons)
376 Bagotville Road
Meerschaum Vale,
NSW, 2477
P. 02 6683 4065
E. gowers10@dodo.com.au

9th November 2012

Major Planning Assessments
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001
stephen.o'donoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au
office@premier.nsw.gov.au
office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au

Re: Objection to Cobbora Coal Project - Ref. No: 10-0001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am an environmental scientist working for local government and resident of Meerschaum Vale NSW and I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed Cobbora coal project.

I object to the Cobbora Coal project as it will consume \$3.4 billion of NSW taxpayer's money in order to destroy 1,867ha of significant woodland providing habitat for 39 threatened species, including nationally listed endangered species and will disturb 47km² of land with important high conservation and agricultural value. The project justification is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections and will generate additional greenhouse gas emissions conflicting with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts. Water supply for the mine during dry conditions will draw down supply for the Mudgee wine and tourism industry and significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites will be destroyed.

This all seems to be the result of dirty backroom deals done to flog off our public electricity generators and ensure the private companies get maximum profits. The mine will run at a loss for the government eroding any one off profit made by the unethical sale of the taxpayer owned generators. This makes no sense and seems to be yet another example of a completely incompetent government or worse still one with some other secret agenda. This project will ensure another 20 years of increasing CO² emissions which will threaten our coastal, towns and cities, agricultural lands, highways, railways and airports such as Sydney

airport with inundation. You may consider this a small price to pay; I and the voters of NSW may seek to differ. This money should be diverted into building renewable power supplies with proven solar thermal, tidal, wave, wind and solar PV energy providing base load power and allowing coal fired stations to be completely phased out. This would have been an important reason to keep coal fired generation in public hands however the government seems to have missed this in their rush to make a short term economic gain coupled with a long term loss for the economy, the community and the environment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garry Owers', written in a cursive style.

Garry Owers

45 Highfield Road
PO Box 481
LINDFIELD NSW 2070

Ph: 02 9416 7334

rbpallin@bigpond.net.au

9 November 2012

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

Re: Cobbora coal project

Dear Sir/Madam,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion.

This project will be a desecration of the NSW environment not just because of the 47 square kilometres of land of high conservation value and prime agricultural land but by committing NSW to continue coal fired power generation for the next couple of decades.

It is inappropriate for the state to be investing large amounts in this dirty technology at this time.

This mine will compete with the sustainable wine and tourism industry of the Mudgee area for water and clean air.

I ask that this development not be allowed.

Regards



Robert Pallin

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David Palmer, of Big Volcano Tourism Marketing & Media, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

The Cobbora Coal Project must be stopped. If it is allowed to go ahead it will be a disaster for the economies of the state of NSW and the commonwealth of Australia.

It will undermine our national and the international struggle to save the planet from an immediately impending environmental disaster.

We are now well on the road to a 6 degree warming by 2050. This most likely means the total collapse of human civilisation within 200 years and the extinction of over 60% of species (including us) within a thousand years.

This project ,with its corrupt arrangement to subsidise private power companies, will lock in for decades the most environmentally damaging energy (coal) and inhibit investment in environmentally benign energy projects such as solar and wind.

What the citizens of this state need, and indeed demand, is the complete reversal of the Keneally government's electricity privatisation deal. It is important for the state and federal governments to encourage investment in renewable generation capacity and decommission the most CO2 intensive plant as soon as possible.

You already know this, and if you care for the welfare of our children and our grandchildren you will act for their benefit now!

If you do not, God forgive you because we the people and our descendants will not. Their descendants will never have the chance to forgive you for they will never be born.

Wake up! Its the environment, stupid!

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David Palmer, of Pumpenbil NSW, 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 Cobbora Coal Project must be stopped. If it is allowed to go ahead it will be a disaster for the economies of the state of NSW and the commonwealth of Australia.

It will undermine our national and the international struggle to save the planet from an immediately impending environmental disaster.

We are now well on the road to a 6 degree warming by 2050. This most likely means the total collapse of human civilisation within 200 years and the extinction of over 60% of species (including us) within a thousand years.

This project ,with its corrupt arrangement to subsidise private power companies, will lock in for decades the most environmentally damaging energy (coal) and inhibit investment in environmentally benign energy projects such as solar and wind.

What the citizens of this state need, and indeed demand, is the complete reversal of the Keneally government's electricity privatisation deal. It is important for the state and federal governments to encourage investment in renewable generation capacity and decommission the most CO2 intensive plant as soon as possible.

You already know this, and if you care for the welfare of our children and our grandchildren you will act for their benefit now!

If you do not, God forgive you because we the people and our descendants will not. Their descendants will never have the chance to forgive you for they will never be born.

Wake up! Its the environment, stupid!

In despair

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Chandricka K Pasupati, of Kings Langley NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

RE: Objection to the proposed coal mine at Cobbora

I am a concerned citizen of Australia, and a member of several environmental organisations, I welcome the opportunity to make a written submission against the proposed coal mine at Cobbora as outlined below.

Firstly, the proposed open cut mine encroaches onto high conservation and high agricultural areas, and directly threatens the habitats of 39 endangered flora and fauna. Efforts to 'mitigate' are insufficient, as is the plan to rehabilitate the threatened species. These are highly endangered species, as such, it is the government's obligation to protect and ensure that their habitat remains undisturbed, not compromise their viability for commercial gain. It is also uncertain how successful the translocation of these organisms will be, with climate change a reality and threats to water supply increasing over time, as highlighted in the Executive summary, the added stress from the mine itself, will drive these organisms to eventual extinction

Secondly, water is a scarce resource under current climatic conditions. There are alternatives for fossil-fuel driven electrical generators: but not for our natural water supplies. Though residents in local areas are offered alternatives, in the probable event of water contamination from toxic runoff, wild life will be directly threatened if there is an unprecedented drought or if toxic runoff contaminates ground water or rivers, as they are completely reliant on these natural bodies of water.

Thirdly, it is an Aboriginal heritage site. Moreover, the report has identified that areas significant to Aboriginal culture will be negatively impacted. Given that they are the original custodians of the land, which was brutally taken away from them, it is highly unacceptable that any of their sacred sites are disturbed. All areas of cultural significance need to be left undisturbed, and respected.

Furthermore, the water that will be diverted to the mine for its operation will threaten other legitimate industries, such as the Cobbora wineries and agricultural farms. Furthermore, the noise, dust and carcinogens emanating from the mine, will directly threaten the health of all those in the valley. The change to lifestyle and destruction to health can easily be avoided if more environmentally friendly options are implemented.

Finally, the Cobbora mine was proposed in order to meet the energy demands of the state, principally by burning coal to generate electricity to meet consumer needs. This is short term strategy, as a long-term solution would have explored all renewable energy options, in an unbiased manner. Moreover, since the original proposal, the demand for coal has dropped significantly, rendering the proposed Cobbora mine an unnecessary expense. There are other environmentally friendly solutions that will cater to our current and future energy demands, and minimise the State's carbon dioxide levels- such as solar energy and wind energy, that can generate electricity without emitting additional carbon dioxide into the already heavily polluted atmosphere. The 3 billion dollars that this project is costing to tax payers, is far better invested in subsidizing these schemes rather than powering 'dirty' coal mines that are contributing to, not alleviating problems to the ailing climate.

The decision to build an additional coal mine is very short sighted and unnecessary. The Cobbora mines will further endanger the already endangered wild life as well as threaten water supply to ground water and adjacent rivers and creeks. Moreover the project and its products will contribute to and not alleviate greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, the cost borne by tax payers serves only as a temporary measure to our exploding energy needs, and should be better spent on renewable energy schemes that do not threaten the environment, but offer more permanent solutions. I sincerely hope that the plan to expand the mine be relinquished for the reasons outlined.

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David Paull, of Tingira Heights NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Submission on the Cobbora Coal Project EA
David Paull MSc Dip Hum
15 November 2012

I do not support the proposed Cobbora Mine for a number of grounds:

1. Does not consider the development of renewable sources of energy to meet the energy needs of the future;
2. Does not take into account the carbon pollution footprint adequately;
3. Will result in significant drawdown of groundwater tables that will have far-reaching consequences to the natural hydrological systems and agricultural systems for an undetermined period of time;
4. Uses questionable science to justify the extent of supposed ecosystem recovery;
5. Does not adequately take into account the adverse health impacts of toxic coal dust emissions on communities and ecosystems.

1. As a government sponsored mining venture, the government has a responsibility to set an example for the development of renewable sources of energy. The government investment in this project would be better spent developing solar thermal energy sources. The NSW government should look to the examples set overseas in various countries (often using Australian technology) to develop such base power systems. We are well placed to set an example to develop such technologies, the investment by NSW into this project could be better spent developing such systems and support our technological and environmental advantage in developing solar thermal systems.

2. The carbon footprint of this venture will be enormous (30 Mt CO₂-e). Not only will it remove large areas of native carbon sinks, but will produce undetermined amounts of carbon pollution throughout the whole process from clearing, excavation, transport of materials, and during the electricity generation process. None of this is explained fully or quantified in the EA document.

As an air quality management has not been provided to demonstrate how pollution levels will be reduced, high levels of particulate matter above acceptable levels are expected, though does not take into account drift from wind.

3. The potential impacts upon the surface and groundwater systems have been under-stated. There are a number of impacts which may have serious long term effects upon the local hydrology and the biological systems that are reliant upon it. While impacts upon the Talbregar River are stated to be minor, the drawdown in the groundwater in the area of the mine is expected to last 20-50 years, which may have

major repercussions for the health of the ecosystems associated with Sandy and Leahys Creeks. . With a drawdown of 1 m expected over an area of over 30 sq km and 20m in the alluviums this may have serious consequences including tree death over a large area, particularly during drought conditions. While surface flows are said to be maintained, these systems are dependent upon both ground and surface water inputs. A degradation of these drainage systems may then adversely affect the Talbregar input. It would only take a few years for the vegetation to be critically affected given adverse water availability.

Why would water quality impacts be restricted to Leahy Creek as stated when flow into the Talbregar is to be expected? This is not clear.

It is intended that water will be used for the mine from the Cudgegong River and that this would not entail any reduction in town and stock water but it is likely to mean a reduction therefore in environmental water.

Both the Talbregar and Cudgegong Rivers already carry high salt loads. The fact that there will be two large hyper-saline lakes in the old pits that will feed into the shallow groundwater aquifers will result in their contamination. Fresh water aquifers which feed the surface ecosystems tend to be shallow. Continual feeding of these aquifers with contaminated water is likely to exacerbate any draw down effects upon the associated biological systems. A water management plan has not been provided so provide some surety for the claims made in the EA.

4. 1,867 ha of native vegetation will be cleared including 70 ha of threatened ecological communities and the local extinction of the local population of the state and federally listed endangered plant *Tylophora linearis*. Despite expected offsets, this population will disappear, reducing the genetic diversity of this species. There are only eight locations known for this species in the Dubbo region (<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/55231-conservation-advice.pdf>) .

The EA states that progressive rehabilitation of the pit area with fallen logs will compensate the loss of hollows that will be lost as a result of the excavation of the pits and that this help species to "maintain their territories". This is highly inaccurate representation of the likely direct impacts upon the local fauna. The progressive loss of 1,876 ha of habitat will immediately displace those fauna affected. These animals must immediately disperse to adjacent areas or die in situ. Most adjoining habitat would already be occupied by other fauna and so severe competition would ensue with the outcomes uncertain. There is simply no way an animal would be able to "maintain" its territory over a major habitat loss incident which spans over any number of years. Instead it is almost certain that for the 20 locally occurring threatened fauna species thought to occur in the subject site, local extinction will occur.

The pit rehabilitation will not provide habitat for most of the species it has displaced for many (years in excess of 50). Native vegetation, particularly trees take long periods of time reach maturity and provide hollows in western slope areas where water is scarcer. Nevertheless the successful re-instatement of mature functioning ecosystems has never been demonstrated in other mine closures which is not surprising given such strategies can never replace the previous levels of diversity and function, given issues related to soil type, landform and water availability.

The offset package will protect less than 3,000 of existing woodland with another 1,700 ha of new plantings etc. In other words less than 3,000 ha of existing woodland will be offset in the offset strategy that are unlikely to provide any additional habitat for the threatened species displaced and the rehabilitation proposed will not provide this level of habitat to accommodate over periods in excess of 50 years if ever at all. In addition surveys to test the suitability for providing habitat for displaced threatened species have not been conducted.

Given these factors it is highly unlikely that protecting 2-3 000 ha of existing vegetation will result in a "net improvement " in the extent and quality of locally occurring native vegetation.

5. There is no assessment of the social, economic and environmental impacts of

particulate matter. This is despite growing evidence of the health impacts of mining generated material on human health.

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Fred Payne, of Parramatta NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir,

I am gravely concerned about you proposal to approve the Cobbora Coal Project.

At a time when we are seeing increasing adverse weather events it seems extremely short sighted for the government to be offering a significant subsidy to the industry which is a major contributor to the problem.

Subsidised electricity is not cheap and in the face of falling demand fossil fuel generation, of necessity, must become increasingly expensive over time as transport costs increase and the consequences of climate change have to be paid for. Add to this the environmental destruction and the threat to crucial water resources and it is hard for me to understand how this proposal is not just a cynical exercise that puts the narrow interests of coal-fired power generators above the interests of ordinary people and the environment.

I ask you to abandon this 'costly, polluting and destructive proposal' and to commit some real resources to the development of renewable energy solutions

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Margot Pearson, of Surry Hills NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I wish to object to the decision of the state government to support the opening of another major coal mine. At a time when demand for electricity is actually falling and the success of demand management (somewhat inadvertently by the raising of energy prices) is evident. There is no compelling case for government subsidies, or for trashing yet another valuable acreage of farmland and woodland with risks to groundwater resources.

Why are we taking funds from education and health to subsidise an industry that is becoming less and less relevant for an energy efficient economy?

With respect but also disappointment yet again with the priorities of this government

Margot Pearson
margotmp@ozemail.com.au
17 Marshall St, Surry Hills, 2010

David Penn
15 Second Ave
Epping NSW 2121

12 November 2012

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

Dear Sir,

Submission: Objections to Cobbora Coal Project

I am a resident of Sydney, but have made several recent visits to the Dubbo/Gulgong district and have been following the development of this issue with interest.

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

1. The justification of this project is flawed as it is based on electricity demand projections that do not reflect the fact that demand has dropped significantly since the original proposal.
2. It is totally inappropriate that \$3.4 billion of taxpayer money is proposed to be spent on a mine that would be run at a loss in order to subsidise power generation to be run by private companies, ie. to subsidise the profits of those private companies.
3. The use of 3,700 megalitres of water per year by the mine will threaten the water supply to the wine and tourism industries in the Mudgee region.

The Mid-Western Regional Council has reviewed the environmental assessment of the Cobbora coal project. Spokeswoman Catherine Van Laeran says there are concerns about how the information has been collected. "From that, if that basic water balancing modelling is incorrect then the impacts on surface water and how they impact on downstream users, the environment, the quality of the water and even the operational requirements of the mine will all be meaningless if the groundwork is inappropriate or incorrect."

4. This project would lock the State into coal-fired generation for many years and result in increased greenhouse gas emissions over that time period. This conflicts with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts.
5. The clearing of 1867ha of woodland habitat will impact on many endangered and vulnerable plant and bird species. The proposed biodiversity offset package is inadequate; a rehabilitated mine site cannot substitute for the destruction of a functioning ecosystem.

In conclusion, let me say that I concur with the following observation by the Nature Conservation Council:

“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; or the cost of major infrastructure upgrades, particularly rail lines, to accommodate additional coal transport.”

Yours sincerely,

David Penn

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Natalie Penn, of na NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

We strongly object to the Cobbora Coal Mine.

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.

This mine proposal is environmentally destructive and fiscally irresponsible.

We would rather the NSW Government spent this money on schools, health and public transport.

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

This ill-conceived proposal puts the narrow interests of coal-fired power generators above the interests of ordinary people and the environment.

The NSW Government must abandon this costly, polluting and destructive proposal.

We need to start looking toward alternative avenues for power and stop mining intensely polluting coal.

Sincerely,

Penn Family

Sydney

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Lindsay Peters, of Eastwood NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

- The mine will be environmentally destructive,
- The coal burnt will increase Australia's carbon pollution, at the very time we need to be reducing carbon emissions to slow climate change,
- The money invested in the mine should go to higher-priority projects like renewable energy, public transport and public education,

Cobbora Proposal

1. Personal details

Michael Phillips
87 Oak Road
Kirrawee NSW 2232

Michael Phillips

Dated 9th November 2012

2. Submission to:

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

3. I am a resident of .Sydney, NSW.

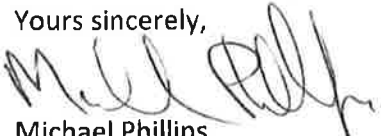
I have experience in .Health and Accounting.

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion.

4. Comments and concerns on the Cobbora coal project.

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
8. It is too great a health risk and the financial rewards are dubious at best.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Phillips

Dated 9th November 2012

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Steve Phillips, of Newcastle East NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

This is a submission against the Cobbora coal project.

Let's be honest. This "assessment" process is actually an approval process. There is no chance in hell that the Planning Department, the Planning Minister, or the Planning Assessment Commission would allow a coal mine project to be rejected.

The Planning process for coal projects in NSW is a farce. The communities views do not matter to the Government, or the mining companies. In this case, the Government is the mining company.

I am writing this submission, not because I believe it will influence the Planning Department's decision on the Cobbora coal project, but because it's important for the record to show how many people are opposed to the devastating coal boom that the NSW Government and coal mining companies are forcing on us, whether we like it or not.

The reasons I am opposed to the Cobbora coal project are listed below. There is no way to avoid these impacts, except by rejecting the mine proposal. No "conditions of approval" can negate the massive impacts of this coal mine proposal on ecosystems, waterways, the community, and the global climate.

Reasons the Cobbora coal project must be rejected:

- The mine would produce 12 million tonnes per annum of product coal. This coal would then be combusted in power stations to produce 34 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, which would then be dumped into the atmosphere, propelling global temperatures to dangerous levels. The International Energy Agency's 2012 annual report found that two thirds of global fossil fuel reserves must never be mined, or the global climate would become unlivable. The NSW Government, on the other hand, appears determined to allow mining companies access to every last tonne of carbon reserves in this state.
- Climate change aside, the impacts on air quality, and consequently on peoples health, from mining 20 Mtpa of coal (and then burning 12Mtpa) are unacceptable.
- The mine would result in the bulldozing of approximately 1800 hectares of bushland, including threatened species, endangered ecological communities, and critically endangered ecological communities. As usual, the miners, and the Government (who in this instance are the same), will argue that this loss of habitat can be "offset" through the purchase of bushland elsewhere. That argument is bullshit. Firstly, destroying one area of bushland and not destroying another, is not a neutral outcome. The bush is still gone, and the animals that lived there are still dead. Secondly, the offset bushland is not even protected. Right now in Warkworth,

Rio Tinto are planning to bulldoze bushland that was previously "set aside" as an offset. Your Department gave them permission to do that. Who do you think you're kidding?

- 3.7 gigalitres of water would be used by the mine. Will there be any left?
- The proponents have already bought 68 properties in the area. Basically, no body will be able to live there any more. The NSW Government pays lip service to supporting rural communities, but then allows mining companies to destroy them. Or in this case, the Government plans to destroy the rural community on it's own.

Sincerely,
Steve Phillips

Objection to Cobbora Coal Project – state owned coal mine proposal

Application No: 10_0001

November Deadline: Friday 16 2012

For the Attention of : Stephen O'Donoghue.

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

**Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001**

From : R.Pinferi
 **, Cobbora NSW 2844.**

Key Points of Objection:

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

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. It will supply 30% of their needs over 21 years.

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 to keep NSW electricity competitive in the national market.

The mine will cost the NSW tax payer approx \$3.4b. The argument for continued coal-fired electricity in comparison to the long-term benefits of renewable energy sources has not been made. The NSW State Plan has a priority action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Tax payer's money would be better invested in renewable energy sources.

The NSW Government has purchased 68 of 90 properties in the affected area. The loss of farming community and broad acre 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.

Additionally the Executive Summary indicates that the mine area is mostly agricultural and therefore sparsely inhabited leading to the assumption that the people resident in the area are expendable, does this mean city people are more important than country people!

- 2. The project will generate approx 615 million tonnes of additional greenhouse gas**
- 3. The project is in direct conflict 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**

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

The project has a very large footprint and will cause major environmental impacts on woodland habitat as well as groundwater and surface water sources.

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

The clearing of 1,867ha woodland habitat will impact on the following species listed for national protection:

- Grassy Box Woodland
- 3 endangered and vulnerable plants including 100% loss of the local population of *Tylophora linearis*
- Endangered bird species eg Australasian Bittern, Malleefowl, Superb Parrot
- Vulnerable microbat species

Also a large number of threatened woodland birds protected under the NSW Threatened Species Act were recorded in the area of impact.

Section ES3.1.3 Surface Water indicates that there will be a low area left behind after mine restoration. The environmental statement advises that this area will fill with water and will become a hypersaline lake which must be an environmental time bomb. The lake is referred to as an economic necessity to make the mine viable, Where else in the developed world is this possible?

6. The project will destroy significant Aboriginal heritage sites

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

The mine will need to use up to 3,700 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.

Specific objections to current Environment Statement.

Air Quality.

- A. DUST LOADS. The measurement of the existing air quality is based on data collected from sample stations which are adjacent to existing unsealed roads.

Additionally they are all inside the project application area which means that the data they provide indicates the air quality existing at the actual mine site.

Referring to Appendix M –Air quality and associated Appendix E –Tabular Results: Table E7 page 208 please consider residence 5006 (where my family resides)

The table shows that dust created by the mine (Incremental Concentration) is less than 20% of the dust applicable to background sources plus the mine(Cumulative Concentration) I cannot believe this as my property is not on a major road and only one car a day passes by on average.

Information regarding existing mines indicate dust pollution actually occurring during mine operations vastly exceeds the original environmental statement projections in both the area effected and amount of dust generated. Accordingly assuming the EPA supervises these existing mines plans should be included in the Environmental Statement overlaying original projections against actual conditions.

B. QUESTIONS REGARDING INFORMATION PROVISION.

1. Figure 14.1 Air Quality Assessment Locations indicates an area of Maximum extent of Mine, does this include stockpile areas for overburden and topsoil?
2. The effected/adjacent community members require the mine layouts to be based on the applicable deposited plans with mine infrastructure superimposed, leaving lot numbers readable, thus allowing accurate analysis of the mine location and effects.
3. The mine layouts provided have a nominal north indicated I believe that is misleading and all layouts should display True North, Grid North and Magnetic North.

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Roslyn L. Poole, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I strongly oppose the green light being given to the Cobbora coal mine going ahead. I am no expert and cannot quote facts and figures to support my opinion but I know wholeheartedly that I am sick to death of our precious natural world being sold off for the almighty dollar. We, I believe, should act as custodians of this unique continent and the other creatures we share it with. At present all we can see are dollar signs. Our view of the world is a purely economic one. While I agree a comfortable standard of living is something to be aimed at for all I do not think that more than that should come at a mighty price to the environment. For this coal mine we will pay a mighty price in lost of habitat and species. Don't want it! May not make economic sense to you or the Chinese who will buy the coal but I would sacrifice my air conditioner (which by the way I do not have) for a good natural environment any day!!

Yours sincerely
Roslyn L. Poole

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Peter Portelli, of COBBORA NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

12 October 2012 TRANSMITTED 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 parents we currently hold land adjacent to land held by Cobbora Holding Company Pty Limited which is described as Property Location 1172 within the Cobbora Coal Project Environmental Assessment.

As longterm 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:

* One of these issues is I currently use the all weather Spiring Ridge Road on a daily basis to commute from my property at Gulgong where I reside to my land at Cobbora. Cobbora have advised they plan to divert the road which would result in myself having to travel approximately 175km a week extra (25km both ways). This results in a financial and inefficiency to our business and has not been credibly addressed within the assessment or by Cobbora representatives.

Correspondence provided to date from Cobbora has outlined the proposal to relocate the road and that it would shorten my travel time, resulting in no affectation. This is very confusing as I am able to travel at 100kph on the current sealed road and it is a lot shorter distance so unless they are allowed to increase the speed limit I am unsure how my travel time not be impacted by the proposal. There is an alternate route which is the Avonside West Road which is currently a public road but is only really suitable for four wheel drive vehicles. It would be my preference to have this road upgraded to the same level as the current Spring Ridge Road they are going to close so we can use this as an alternate route rather than the one proposed by the mine. The Avonside West Road would also be a shorter route for those residents living closer to Cobbora to access Gulgong, Mudgee and Sydney.

* 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 the predominant winds within the local area being from the West and 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.

* We currently rely on groundwater for stock and domestic purposes and having 4 bores located on the same stream as those owned by Cobbora Coal. Modelling presented within the Environmental Assessment appears to show an impact to the Alluvial Aquifers that our property is located on, however we are still unsure the effect this will have on our business or water quality and quantity. This is a significant concern to us and should be further addressed by Cobbora Coal.

* As life-long farmers, we do maintain issues with Land Management displayed by Cobbora Coal to date and their inability to control weeds - with no weed control being undertaken on neighbouring properties for the past three years and livestock on land owned by the mine consistently grazing on public roads and on two instances causing near fatalities. Certainly this is not ideal and is likely to cause impact to adjoining properties, like ourselves, and introduce financial impost to our business from the need to undertake additional weed control and feral animal control programs within our landholdings.

* As a result of 5 out of our six neighbours being purchased by Cobbora Coal and being advised in writing by Cobbora Coal that we will not be affected, we have consistently raised the issue of our current land holding being devalued as a result of having no neighbours competing for the purchase of our land in the event of sale 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

John, Connie and Peter Portelli

Sheila Quonoey

12 The Glen Cres

Springwood 2777

9th November 2012

Dear Sir,

I am writing this submission as I am objecting to the Cobbora Coal project you are currently looking at.

I am a member of the Nature Conservation Council. I live in the Blue Mts. and appreciate the beauty of nature and realise the importance of protecting our land now and for the future.

There are many environmental impacts such as the destruction of woodlands, loss of agricultural land, damage to groundwater resources and desecration of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites that will occur if the Cobbora coal project goes ahead.

This project will be 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. I would prefer to see the NSW Government spent this money on schools, health and public transport?

I urge the planning committee to think seriously about this project. I hope you will not allow it to proceed.

Yours sincerely

Sheila Quonoey

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Pamela Rabinau, of TAFE, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Mr Stephen O'Donoghue,

I wish to object to the Cobbora Coal Project -state owned coal mine proposal. The reasons for my objections are as follows:

1. The project justification is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections.
2. The project will generate approx 615 million tonnes of additional greenhouse gases.
3. The project is in direct conflict with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts.
4. The project will disturb approx 47 km² 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 heritage sites.
7. The project will compete with the Mudgee wine and tourism industry for water supply during drought conditions.

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Ann Rainsford, of New Brighton NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to comment on the proposed expansion of this or any coal mine and place my objection in writing.

Cobbora coal mine is an appallingly inappropriate spending of tax payers money. \$3.4 billion dollars could go a long way investing in renewable , non polluting energies rather than support this project

Adding additional greenhouse emissions is against State and Federal policies to reduce climatic change impacts

Approximately 47km² of land which has high agricultural and conservation value , will be disturbed .

The project will compete for water with local industries and people, especially in times of drought....which should always be of significance in our drought prone country. This does not show forward thinking

Aboriginal cultural heritage sites will be destroyed

Significant woodlands[containing habitat for 39 threatened species] will be destroyed

This is an outdated `solution' when newer and better alternatives are available. Old methods need replacing as does old thinking

I am concerned for our future generations. We need to keep our environment clean . We need to be thought of as an educated nation not become a joke internationally...we , who have enough alternate energies resources should not allow this to proceed .

Do not spend taxpayers money on this backward step



154 Woorarra Ave

Elanora Heights

NSW 2010

12th November 2012

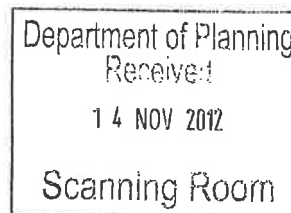
Major Planning Assessments

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney 2001

Re: Cobbora Coal Project



Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to comment on the proposed Cobbora Coal project. Besides being a life long resident of NSW I feel that I have a right to make a submission as I have undergraduate qualifications in Science (Geology and Geophysics); I have travelled through the upper Hunter for over 10 years visiting a close relative who lives in Scone as well as a tourist; I also have deep concerns for the future of our planet unless we do something to curb our greenhouse gas emissions – specifically CO₂ emissions and I am deeply concerned about the destruction of a sustainable resources – agriculture and high conservation areas of the Upper Hunter, in exchange for short term economic gains – the Cobbora Coal project.

Have you flown or driven through the Hunter Valley recently and seen what open cut coal mines are doing to our land, our air and to our children's future?

My specific objections are as follows:

1. In light of the ICAC revelations aired tonight (12/11/2012) on the ABC TV News (NSW) about alleged Ministerial leaks and apparent alleged favouritism for others in relation to approvals for coal mines in the Bylong Valley I have grave concerns over the probity of the approval process of any new coal projects – at the very least the whole process by which the project was approved should be started again from scratch.
2. At a time when the NSW treasury is stretched the Cobbora Coal project is inappropriate investment of \$3.4 billion of NSW taxpayers' money
3. The project justification is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections – I have put solar panels on my roof and purchase 100% green energy. We can ween ourself off fossil fuel power stations!

4. The project will generate additional greenhouse gas emissions conflicting with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts
5. The project will disturb approximately 47km² of land with important high conservation and agricultural value
6. The project will destroy 1,867ha of significant woodland providing habitat for 39 threatened species, including nationally listed endangered species
7. The project will destroy significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites
8. The project will compete with the Mudgee wine and tourism industry for water supply during drought conditions

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'IRalph', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the first part of the signature.

Ian Ralph

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Pamela Reeves, of Gladesville NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I am writing to OBJECT in the strongest possible terms to the proposed Cobbora coal mine.

I think that this mine cannot be justified because of the huge wildlife habitat that will be destroyed. More importantly, though, it will lock this state into electricity production via coal burning power stations when there are much better options for energy production - renewable energy.

Consumption of electricity has decreased since this mine was first proposed and locking the state into this carbon intensive process is an enormous step backwards.

Yours sincerely

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Louise Rhodes, of Pennant Hills NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir/Madam,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion.

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 Mudgee wine and tourism industry for water supply during drought conditions

Yours sincerely,

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Kathe Robinson, of Wedderburn NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

This will be a very short submission of objection concerning the Cobbora Coal project since the time allowed was short:

Many people in NSW have been very concerned about the growing approvals for coal projects, despite the fact that coal mines have disastrous effects in a dry country like Australia, despite the loss of valuable farming land and water, despite the changing conditions operating in the 21st. century ,despite well researched data on the anthropogenic cause of climate change and global warming ;despite the extensive damage to Australia's natural assets,a situation whereby 'assessments' seem to change nothing since this growth still happens without proper controls, without a proper duty of care by the govt. ministers responsible for planning and primary industries.

All this also despite vast numbers of submissions, both lay and scientific, (which on the whole been almost totally disregarded), regarding the dangers involved with Australia's dependance on a dangerous fossil fuel and the damage this is doing at every level- social and environmental.

After years of concern about the serious corruption connected to the previous government and its relation to a financially rewarding asset-coal- it is obvious that the lack of proper government control, and a malaise in the current legislative and juridical procedures still allows for ill-advised approvals. Unless a more complex and informed approach is taken the future looks bleak.

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Lynette Rogerson, of na NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Comments on this project

As a land owner situated within the Project Application Area (PAA), I wish to seek clarification on a number of issues I consider will impact on me. The address of my property is 99 Suzanne Road, Tallawang and adjoins exploration licence 7394.

The issues are as follows:

- Offset strategy - tree planting from Tucklan State Forest to Goodiman State Conservation Area.
 - (1) Where will the tree planting occur, and over what size area;
 - (2) Will my property be at increased risk in the event of a bush fire from the north west/west;
 - (3) Will the two forest areas be joined or if not, how will fauna negotiate a fenced rail spur to enter either area;
- The area nominated for the rail spur has been defined by the Mid Western Regional Council as an area of "high value endangered ecological community". As the red guide posts indicate I am within this zone. How will the destruction of this significant area impact on my property;
- What is the future of properties in Suzanne Road, Tallawang acquired by CHC. A number of the properties have dwellings and some are vacant land. As a neighbour of these properties will they be maintained so as to not fall into disrepair or neglect;
- What is anticipated to happen to property values within the PAA for privately owned residences;
- Accuracy of estimated noise levels from the rail spur is of concern. There does not appear to be enough information regarding on-site rail noise to satisfy my misgivings. The report generalises construction details (no specifics) and contains no detail regarding locomotives to be used. The report provides a 5dB increase on current estimates which totals 35 dBA. With my property being 800 to 900 metres from the rail line these levels at best seem very optimistic. Currently the background noise levels are minimal, and well below 35 dBA;
- At the present it is possible to travel the back roads to Dubbo via Brooklyn Road. Will it be possible after the construction of the rail spur to access Brooklyn Road from Suzanne Road? Travelling to Dubbo via Brooklyn Road and Spring Ridge Road provides a shorter route.

As stated in the EA no towns were affected by the PAA. However Suzanne Road was a sub-division and as such was a vibrant local community with plenty of "heart". This

community now no longer exists and for myself I feel a great sense of loss. Having been part of that community for 25 years and myself getting older, the sense of loss feels just that - a sad loss.

I have tried to remain informed on the Cobbora Coal project but the task is enormous for one individual. I applied for and was given Volume 1 - Main Report. However there are nine volumes in total and I will not be across all the detail.

I have tried to simplify the issues that affect me. I am sure there are many more issues I have not yet considered as impacting on my life/property.

Thanking you in anticipation of your response.

Yours faithfully

Lynette Rogerson

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angela sands, of Wombarra NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Your submission guide is unnecessarily bureaucratic and is it designed to stop us protesting, I wonder.

I object to the mine for all the reasons that have been aired frequently. From using less coal because of climate warming, and health and pollution, and water safety. And because we don't know enough of its effects.

sincerely,
Angela Sands

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Bozena Sawa, of Kingswood NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir/Madam,

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.

It will also have an impact on the health of people living in the area. Which can be observed in the Hunter Region.

Planning should be for the future not for the dyeing industries. These funds would be better used for renewable energy following the world trends, especially China that is investing \$473.1 billion on clean energy investments in the next five years. How does this position Australia for the future?

Planning should be for our children future. What economy is this project going to leave them with - a XX century dinosaur.

I am appealing to you to look at the future, legacy you want to leave behind -is it polluted air, water, land and health issue for the people; destroyed environment that all life depends on,;or a country that can compete with it neighbours on new technologies.

For me the choice is easy NO New Mines.

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Frances Scarano, of Katoomba NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Submission to opposing Cobbora coal mine Reference 10-0001

Dear Sirs

I strongly appose this Cobbora mine . It is time you forgot about expensive coal mines which ruin our environment forever and make people sick . Spend the money on renewable energy which is the way to go and you know it.

If you cannot make proper decisions that care for the people of Australia then it is time you were deposed from your office.

The majority of Australians do not want what you are proposing along with a long list of equally dangerous decisions. No one in their right mind wants what you are proposing.

Switch to renewables and fund research into finding a way of harnessing a renewable energy source that is far cheaper, clean and efficient than coal. Let Australia be the first to lead the world this way and sell the unique and advanced technology overseas. Digging coal out of the ground is so archaic and has not changed in centuries.

Please listen to reason.

Frances Scarano

119 Twynam Street Katoomba.2780

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Yuki Schofield, of Randwick NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

This project is based on an outdated electricity demand and coal projections, and does not take into consideration the global push toward renewable energy sources. Expanding Cobbora coal mine will add additional greenhouse gas emission which is in direct conflict with the State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts. Climate change will impact Australia, bringing more severe droughts, and sea water level rises.

I object strongly to the destruction of 1867ha of woodland, and the impact on the water supply for the Mudgee wine tourism industry.

**Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001**

cc. Andrew Gee, MLA

Dear Sir,

Subject : Coobbara Coal Project

Key Points of Objection

1. Coobbara Coal project is inappropriate investment of \$1.5b 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, approx 25m tonnes per year, conflicting with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts
4. The project will use over 3,000ML of high security water from the Cudgegong River and compete with the general security licence holders including the Mudgee wine and tourism industry for water supply during drought conditions
5. Up to 10 coal trains a day will pass through Gulgong to Ulan, Wollar, Bylong and additional export product could be sent through Mudgee in the future.
6. 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.
7. The large open cut mine will disturb approx 47km² of land with important high conservation and agricultural value
8. The project will destroy 1,867ha of significant woodland providing habitat for 39 threatened species, including nationally listed endangered species
9. The project will destroy significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites

Background:

Cobbara Coal project is proposed in central west NSW north-west of Mudgee and Gulgong.

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 over 21 years – 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 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 tax payer approx \$1.5b 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. Tax payer's money would be better invested in renewable energy sources.

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.

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

The open cut coal mine 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, 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 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.

Yours respectfully

Neville Schrader, OAM

[Redacted signature]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Submission of Objection to Cobbora Mine Proposal.

2012 November 13
Murray Scott
4 Electra Street, Heathcote 2233
02 9520 0750 or 04 0720 3430

Attn. Stephen O'Donohue.

As a taxpayer and concerned citizen, I object to the NSW Government investing around \$3.4b in a destructive project designed to extend for decades an obsolete, damaging, and unhealthy system for generating electricity. It would lock NSW into coal-fired electricity generation until at least 2036, defeating the implementation of clean renewable power technologies, sabotaging Australia's diplomatic leverage in negotiating global emission controls for greenhouse gasses.

The proposed extraction of 20mtpa to produce 12mtpa of usable coal means that it is an extremely poor quality product with high ash content. The local health impacts of using poor quality coal around power stations in the Upper Hunter and Central Coast have not been assessed.

The project aims to provide cheap domestic coal to power stations, an aim based on incorrect projections of demand for coal-fired electricity over the next 10 years. Those projections are outdated and wrong in many respects. Electricity demand has dropped significantly since this project was proposed. A parallel drop in the export price of steaming coal has negated the projections used to justify the need to source cheaper coal for domestic use. The mine will be run at a loss, a direct subsidy to power generators in NSW, presumably intended to bolster the sale price of obsolete power stations. This market distortion is pure folly, unjustified by any legitimate economic, workforce, social or environmental benefit. Any argument for continued coal-fired electricity in comparison to the long-term benefits of renewable energy sources has not been made. Tax payer's money would be better invested in dismantling the fossil-fuel dependence of NSW.

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. A large number of threatened woodland birds protected under the NSW Threatened Species Act were also 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 introduction of biodiversity offsets by the previous government represented environmental naivete, clearly illustrated by this instance. The replacement of high conservation value habitat, especially tree hollows, in slow growing woodland species takes centuries. It is in no way equivalent to tree planting on devastated mining spoil dumps.

The mine is expected to use up to 3,700 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.

It is not too late to abandon this dysfunctional project, a carryover of the worst aspects of last-century's state monopoly of electricity infrastructure. It will not generate revenue quickly enough to assist NSW budgets for present Government, nor does it promote long-term prosperity.

Restore the farming and woodland, the communities that depend on it, the wildlife it supports.

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Phyllis Setchell, of Mudgee NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

My Objections to this project are as follows:

1. As a tax payer I am concerned about how the Cobbora Coal project is not a financially viable use of \$3.4b of NSW taxpayers money
2. It is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections
3. The generation of additional greenhouse gas emissions, approx 25m tonnes per year, conflicts with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts
4. Approximately 47km² of land with important high conservation and agricultural value will be destroyed by this large open cut mine.
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 loss of farming community and broadscale food production has not been adequately assessed.
8. The project will use a large amount of water from the Cudgegong River and compete with the Mudgee wine and tourism industry for water supply during drought conditions
9. I am concerned that up to 10 coal trains a day will pass through Gulgong to Ulan, Wollar, Bylong and additional export product could be sent through Mudgee in the future. The detrimental health and traffic impacts would be significant.

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Julie A. Sheppard, of Razorback 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 wish to lodge an objection to this proposal for the following reasons:

1. Cobbora Coal project is inappropriate investment of \$3.4b of NSW taxpayers money. 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.

2. The project justification is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projections. 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 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 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 mine will cost the NSW tax payer approx \$3.4b 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. Tax payer's money would be better invested in renewable energy sources.

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 . The project has a very large footprint and will cause major environmental impacts on woodland habitat as well as groundwater and surface water sources.

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

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.

6. The project will destroy least 79 significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

7. The project will compete with the Mudgee wine and tourism industry for water supply. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

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

I urge the Government. for all the reasons above, to refuse this application.

Yours faithfully,
Julie A. Sheppard

Bev Smiles
Ringwood Rd
Wollar 2850

0428 817 282
bevsmiles@bigpond.com

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

Friday 16 November 2012

SUBMISSION of OBJECTION

Cobbora Coal Project No: 10_0001

Dear Sir,

I strongly object to the NSW Government proposal to develop a large open cut mining operation in the Cobbora district for the purpose of supplying poor quality coal to coal-fired power generators in the Hunter region.

The environmental assessment of the Cobbora mine proposal has indicted that it will cause significant damage to the terrestrial ecology, the aquatic ecology, groundwater systems and the community in the area.

An adequate justification has not been made for a large open cut mine to extract a resource that appears to be uneconomic for the people of NSW. The need for regional employment opportunities and training would be better met by improved Government investment in the renewable energy and services industries in central west NSW.

The people of the Mudgee region have had first-hand experience of the negative impacts of the mining industry and are not interested in having more foisted on them through a Government owned project.

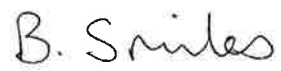
The economics associated with the Cobbora proposal do not add up to a viable operation that would attract private investment.

The power stations in the Hunter and Central Coast were built on top of known coal resources. There is no justification for sourcing coal from over 200 km away. The impacts of additional train movements on all the communities along the Hunter rail corridor are not necessary.

The flow on effect of this proposal to other industries in the area, including the possible threat to long-term water security for the Mudgee region is too high a price to pay for an uneconomic venture.

I recommend that the Cobbora Coal Project not be approved on the grounds of significant environmental, social and economic impact.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. Smiles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bev Smiles

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John Southwell , of coachwell australia, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Supports this project

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to offer my support for the continuation to completion and ongoing operation of the Cobbora Coal Mine.

My wife and I live in the Central West NSW town of Wellington. It is a relatively small town that is a great place to live and work. Like many towns of similar size the prospect of having such a huge undertaking like the Cobbora Coal Project nearby would indeed be a significant boost to its economy, population and the provision of services. This town needs to grow, it needs to increase the percentage of working people and it needs to be in a position to contribute to a long term project such as the Cobbora mine. It has the schools, cheap land for housing, relative proximity to neighbouring centres and people willing to work.

I am frequently asked about the impact on the town of the recently completed Wellington Correctional Centre. I speak here of my personal observations. I am sure Wellington would not have the two major supermarket chains in the town. I add that the opening of the second supermarket certainly ensured that the standards of service and overall presentation of its older and established competitor were raised significantly. I noticed that there seemed to be an increase in the disposable income of Correctional Centre staff manifesting itself in people driving a more modern car, wearing better clothes, availing themselves of increased recreational activities and putting more into the local economy. Although slow, there seems to be a steady increase in the building of new homes.

To have the Cobbora Coal Project go ahead as planned will without doubt play a significant part in taking Wellington to the next level so to speak. Not only would the mining of the resource provide the needed coal for power generation it will have significant and long lasting positive effects on the most valuable resource in this area - those people who live and choose to come and live here.

Please consider this letter an unequivocal expression of support for the Cobbora Coal Project.

Yours sincerely

John Southwell MA (Boston)
Principal
coachwell australia

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Kate Stephens, of Tallawang NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I would like to formally object to the proposed Cobbora Coal mine.

Having moved to this area from Sydney for the clean, fresh air, and non industrial environment we are shocked to find that a new next door neighbour will be a \$1 Billion coal mine.

Not only do we receive little in the way of education, medical or transport help and infrastructure from the NSW government (which we were willing to accept with the move),

but now find the very reasons for our move have been dramatically negated by the onset of industrial infrastructure just around the corner.

My objections are based on the following:

1. That there should be more investment made in new energy technologies rather than investing large amounts of inappropriate NSW tax payers' money on old, dirty technologies, that have a very short term financial gain to the local communities, but ultimately leave them bereft of a clean environment within which to live and raise their families (as per the recent Hunter Valley report onto the local health there. This Hunter Valley Report should be a significant turning point on the future development of this coal mine.)
2. The project will in drought conditions put the livelihood of the local Mudgee Wine growers water supply at risk.
3. The use of up to 10 coal trains going through Gulgong, again puts coal dust into the local area, and degrades the air quality.
4. The fact that the NSW Government has already purchased many of the properties around the proposed site smacks of a 'deal already done'. So surely the procedures of procurement for the coal mine are questionable already.
5. We live within 16 km of the proposed site and are disgusted that we can be actively encouraged by the NSW Government to move from Sydney to regional Australia for a 'better' quality of life for our family only to find our daughter's respiratory system could be compromised with such a mine proposed.
6. The project will also compromise the woodland habitat of 39 threatened species, including listed endangered species.

7. As well as destroy significant Aboriginal Heritage sites.

Destruction of such Aboriginal sites and the habitats of endangered species is not ok on ANY level.

At some point the NSW Government has to be held accountable for the destruction of such habitats and sites.

Kind regards

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Martin Stones, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Hi Could you please do something about stopping the Cobbora mine proposal.

We need more green energy and we need to forget about digging more coal out of the ground to power our needs.

There is going to be nothing left of this planet for future generations if we keep taking everything out of the ground and sending it up into the atmosphere.

I have heard that this is 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.

If you put this \$3 billion towards creating green power don't you think this would be smarter.

Please put a stop to this proposal.

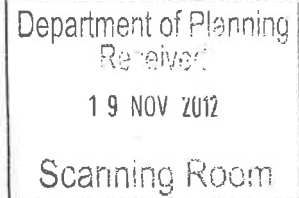
Regards

Martin Stones

8 Warriewood Place
Robina QLD 4226
Phone : (07) 55758856
Mobile: 0433 902 092
Email: annesutherland37@yahoo.com.au
15th November 2012



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



cc Premier O'Farrell office@premier.nsw.gov.au

Planning Minister Hazzard office@hazzard.minister.gov.au

Tony Burke

I am a former long term resident of NSW and an Agricultural graduate of Sydney University. I thank you for this opportunity of commenting on the Cobbora coal project. I am also a member of several wildlife organisations and support them with donations and actively.

I object to the proposed Cobbora coal mine on a number of counts.

1) Coal fired mines are dinosaur industries.

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 urgently needed investment in clean, renewable energy. It is an inappropriate investment of \$3.4 billion of NSW taxpayers' money being heavily subsidised. 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.

2) Its pollution contravenes your own policies

The additional greenhouse gas emissions conflict with State and Federal policy to reduce climate change impacts.

3) Renewable energy is the future

It would be much wiser to invest in renewable energy programmes. This western area has abundant sunshine and wind and New South Wales should be investing in this. Modular arrays of solar banks heating salt towers for more even distribution of power can be built – putting the profits of the first ones into the construction of further ones. There is no reason why windmills cannot be installed close by so electricity can be carried to cities using the same lines.

4) This coal plant will destroy irreplaceable environmental habitat

The planned project will destroy 1,867ha of significant woodland providing habitat for 39 threatened species, including nationally listed endangered species. There are endangered and vulnerable plants, including 100% loss of the local population of *Tylophora linearis*, endangered bird species including australasian bittorn, malleefowl, regent honeyeater, superb parrot; and vulnerable microbat species - southern long-eared bat, large-eared pied bat.



White Box, Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland (BGGW)

BGGW is characterised by a diverse mix of species, dominated by the White Box, Yellow Box and/or Blakely's Red Gum. Box Gum Grassy Woodlands are listed as an endangered ecological community under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Woodlands are listed as an endangered ecological community under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act.



The replacement of high conservation value habitat especially tree hollows in slow growing woodland species takes centuries. Native grasses & shrubs can never be replicated.

5) Agricultural land will be lost to future generations.

We can ill afford the loss of agricultural land, and the increasing population will need food even more.



6) WATER!! The natural flow of ground water will be destroyed

The mine project would damage to groundwater resources and springs. The project will compete with the Mudgee wine and tourism industry for water supply during drought conditions. Wine and tourism are renewable jobs. 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.

7) Aboriginal sites will be damaged.

The desecration of significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites will result.

Please do not waste taxpayers money on an outdated polluting and finite industry and its associated infrastructure using low value coal – but Instead invest in a renewable energy future, conserve land for our farmers and support our wine and tourist industries.

A Sutherland

Anne O'Sullivan

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John Swainston, of Palm Beach NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Greetings all

Burning fossil fuels are harmful to the global environment.

Recovering fossil fuels to sell to anyone is harmful and adds to global problems.

It is high time that this harmful process is given up and jobs are created for people to work without burning any more fossil fuels.

Costs will be different but continuing to burn fossil fuels is too harmful for too long for too many people.

There is no excuse for anybody to continue this harmful process.

Regards

John Swainston

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Melissa Taylor, of Byron Bay NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Im writing to you in OBJECTION to the building of Cobbora Coalmine

I absolutely object to the destruction of wildlife habitat and environmental impacts, including the destruction of more than 1,850 hectares of woodlands, loss of agricultural land, damage to groundwater resources and desecration of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

For the sake of my grandchildren & future generations.

Please don't go ahead of this proposal. I urge you to abandon this costly, polluting and destructive proposal.

Sincerely

Melissa Taylor

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**James L.O. Tedder, of via STUARTS POINT NSW,
made the following submission on the project:**

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I strongly object to the proposal for this huge coal mine on the following grounds

1. Demand for centralised power has dropped since the scheme was first proposed.
2. Better proposals and aid to improve energy efficiency will reduce power requirements at less cost than more coal fired power stations.
3. Installation of smart meters will smooth power requirements and help remove peaks.
4. More funds to encourage local generation of power by wind and solar will further reduce requirements for centralised power.
5. The mine proposal will result in the destruction of some 2,000 hectares of valuable woodland with all its threatened species particularly birds.

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Ashwin Thomas, of Maroubra NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

New coal mines should not be considered in NSW or for that matter Australia, as it is not in the public interest to promote practices that are against the precautionary principle and the intergenerational principle in regard to climate change. Solid scientific evidence indicates that fossil fuel emissions contribute significantly to climate change, so this goes even beyond precautionary. Whether the coal is burned here in Australia or offshore is irrelevant, as climate change is not subject to national or state boundaries, and the effects will be felt here also.

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Bill Tibben, of Epping NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Hi

A signed letter setting out my objections to the Cobbora Coal Project is attached.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment - I am happy to discuss this further if you wish.

- Attachment: [Cobbora Objection.pdf](#)

Bill Tibben
24 Rawson Street
Epping NSW 2121

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

Dear Sir

Cobbora Coal Project

I am a resident of Epping, retired and involved in a range of community projects. I have a deep concern for the community now and into the future, and I thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

I am very concerned by this project for a number of reasons, but my principal objection is that this sort of development flies in the face of World-wide reality about the future of fossil fuels. We must urgently replace fossil fuels with renewable clean energy if we are to be responsible stewards of our one planet. The move to renewable energy is underway around the world and we in Australia are the dinosaurs now, we are being rapidly left behind, hopelessly hooked on coal.

More specifically


- the project is based on outdated demand and price projections
- it will be a very bad investment of more than \$3billion dollars of **OUR** money
- it will reward big, bad polluters rather than discourage them
- the additional greenhouse gases emitted will be at odds with Government policy to reduce Climate change impacts (for what it's worth...)

Apart from this there are the following local objections to this project. It will:

- disturb nearly 50sqkm of land with high conservation and agricultural value
- destroy significant woodland and habitat for 39 threatened species including nationally listed ones
- destroy Aboriginal cultural heritage sites
- compromise local wine and tourism industries

I find it difficult to comprehend that a Government could be so short-sighted and facile in its thinking. I trust that the objections being raised by many will be considered seriously, and that this process is much more than mere consultative tokenism. Please think deeply now about the whole future, not just a few brief years.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.


Bill Tibben
0404 210 438
11th November 2012

Ccs – Premier Barry O'Farrell
Planning Minister Brad Hazzard