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## **Cameron Parker, of Goldminex Resources Limited, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

To Whom it may Concern,

There's a whole list of things that I could mention ([http://nccnsw.org.au/content/stop-cobbora-coal-project-have-your-say?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Stop+the+Cobbora+coal+mine%2521&utm\\_source=YMLP&utm\\_term=here+is+a+submission+guide](http://nccnsw.org.au/content/stop-cobbora-coal-project-have-your-say?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Stop+the+Cobbora+coal+mine%2521&utm_source=YMLP&utm_term=here+is+a+submission+guide)) which by the way are all valid points, but basically the world doesn't need another 20 years of emissions of an obsolete energy source. Invest the money in clean energy that isn't associated with hydrocarbons (ie carbon storage), maybe even look outside the box for the form of energy.

We both know the science but unfortunately the math's is economic 101. Do something you know is right with long term benefits.

Cheers!

Cameron Parker | Project Geologist | Goldminex Resources Limited

Suite 401, 25 Lime Street | Sydney NSW 2000 | Australia

+61 2 9119 8725 | Aust Mob +61 407 878 394

Sect 42 Lot10, Old Angau Backpackers - Angau Drive, Boroko.

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

### Cobbora Coal Project



#### Objects to this project

RE: Cobbora Open Cut Project

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Lake Macquarie and am familiar with mining impacts on my air quality and water and biodiversity. I have been an environmental consultant for 20 years and am a member of the Ecological Society of Australia, the Australian Mammal Society and the NSW Ecological Consultants Association. I have considerable experience in undertaking ecological assessments, in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, including GDEs and have worked on major mining and gas extraction projects in NSW. I have previously written a submission on this project and I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. I maintain my strong objection to this project, the proposed changes have done nothing to minimise the potential impacts, in fact will exacerbate them. I believe there are over-riding economic and environmental grounds as to why this project should not proceed. In fact I believe this project will be a travesty for the citizens and environment of NSW, which will lock low-quality coal production in for another 30 years when it is now that we should be transitioning to renewable energy sources. Please find details of my objection below:

1. The economic assessment of the project and response to submissions has not adequately addressed the cost of a state-owned coal mine to the taxpayers of NSW. \$3.4 B is a large sum to invest in dirty energy when such an investment in renewables IS ACHIEVABLE AND MUCH MORE COST EFFECTIVE. All the best science has already indicated that this summer is the hottest with it being the driest in several states. The climate system has shifted and all indications it will continue to do so. Action required to reduce carbon pollution emissions this decade, not in 40 years time. I hope the NSW Government has the same sort of money to fund adverse judgements as a result of class actions, as this is coming.

2. The project cannot guarantee a 'reliable, secure and economically stable domestic coal supply (to) NSW generators' nor can it guarantee 'affordable electricity in NSW' given the volatility of the coal market, there is no sure market price for coal in next few years, let alone over the next few decades. This prediction ignores the impact of carbon emission schemes and the increasing competitiveness of renewable energy.

3. The justification for the mine is based on contracts negotiated by the ALP Govt as part of the Gentrader deal. These could be filled through other arrangements.
4. The PPR does not justify the increase in water demand for mining operations from the previous prediction of 3,700 ML per year up to 4,340 ML per year. The original amount is most likely to be unsustainable for environmental flows in the Talbregar/Cudgegong river systems. How could an increase be justified? Water will adversely affect surface and groundwater systems where significant drawdown is expected for decades. Given the likelihood of drought conditions during this time, this is likely to amount to a significant impact on the resilience and survival of natural ecosystems both terrestrial and groundwater. There has been no adequate GDE assessment for this project, no analysis of the stygofauna or other GDE components. The increased pump rate from the Cudgegong River and access to higher natural flows has not been adequately assessed. Nor has the impact of the hyper-saline lake that will remain after the project has finished, leaching salt into already saline river systems. This impact plus the reduction of environmental flows, plus the drawdown of our hydrological systems at a time when drought is likely, will lead to widespread collapse of ecological systems, and a destruction of the agricultural systems that depend on them.
5. The PPR will increase the area of destroyed woodland by 92 ha including an additional 11 ha of threatened ecological communities. With no details of the offset proposals apart from envisaged acreage and vegetation communities in these areas there is no way to assess the adequacy of this proposal. As it stands, it is unlikely to meet accepted standards of "like for like" as far as condition is concerned. To use cleared areas to offset remnant vegetation is not supported by science. There has been no precedent to support the notion that a grassland will support displaced wildlife in the short or even medium term. Studies show that there are no hollow box trees in the dry woodlands of the western slopes that are younger than 220 years (Gibbons and Lindenmayer 2000). Many species that will be displaced depend on these old growth elements and their displacement in reality will lead to their local extinction. There is a population of the threatened plant *Tylophora linearis* that will be wiped out (of which there are only eight known populations), and a number of threatened plant species that will suffer significant losses to their extent. The offsets proposed to do not account for these losses to our biodiversity.
6. The increased height of over burden emplacements by 20m will increase dust emissions. The air quality model needs to be redone using all available meteorological information. There has been no assessment on the health of residents in the area. This is a quite shameful omission.
7. The proposal to implement the draft 'Rail Infrastructure Noise Policy' will disadvantage local residents affected by increased noise from the proposed rail loop.
8. The issue of train length on the Ulan line has not been addressed as identified in the ARTC 2012 - 2020 Rail Corridor Capacity Strategy.

Yours sincerely,

David Paull  
6 Somers Close  
Tingira Heights, NSW 2290  
0438795289

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## **Kay Pell, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

Dear Premier and Ministers,

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

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

The Cobbora coal mine, proposed for east of Dubbo, would provide heavily subsidised coal to six large coal-fired power stations, lock in decades of carbon pollution, and delay investment in clean, renewable energy. I do not want my tax dollars wasted on this project. I would urge you to look at other options which are much more environmentally friendly for our planet.

Last month, the O'Farrell Government took a positive step and voted to prohibit new coal seam gas activities within two kilometres of residential areas and sensitive rural industries. Thank you for starting to listen to community concerns around the reckless expansion of polluting industries, however that was a first step in a long process of providing safe energy efficiencies.

The Cobbora mine proposal is environmentally destructive and fiscally irresponsible.

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 and damage to groundwater resources.

This ill-conceived proposal puts the narrow interests of coal-fired power generators above the interests of ordinary people and the environment. I urge you to abandon this costly, polluting and destructive proposal.

Thank you,

Kay Pell

Phone: (02) 6772 0169



Mobile: 0432 573 574  
kaypell@bigpond.com

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## **Dave Platter , of Curl Curl NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this submission to object to the Cobbora Coal project. It would be financially irresponsible, scientifically suspect and wasteful of precious water.

Please, there are better things to do with \$3 billion of taxpayer money.

Yours sincerely,

Dave Platter

4 March 2013

TRANSMITTAL VIA EMAIL

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

Dear Stephen,

Re: Cobbora Coal Project Environmental Assessment and Project Application

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In response to the response to our previous submission which states the additional time and distance to be travelled as a result of the road diversion would 'be 5 minutes travel time and 7 km travel distance for each vehicle' and therefore no justification for the up grade of the Avonside West Road I would like to bring the following to your attention:

- Current speed limit on Spring Ridge Road is 100km per hour (see attached photo of council signage taken on the 27 March 2013). This is also confirmed in the response to the submission in the following statement 'CHC is also working in consultation with the Warrumbungle and Mid-Western Regional Councils to implement a combination of targeted temporary and permanent road improvements for the remainder of the route combined with a speed limit reduction to 80 km/hr for the central section of the route north from Montaza Road to the start of the new alignment for the 19 km Spring Ridge Road'
- Additional distance we have to travel as advised by the mine on a number of occasions is 25.4 km per day and 177.8 km per week (see attached map provided by CHC)
- Not having to be a town planner to calculate the additional distance, time or cost to our business as a result of the above we conservatively incur the following cost:

	Annual Basis (48 weeks)	Lifetime Cost Based on 35 years
Additional Distance	8534 km	298,690km
Additional Time	85.34 hours	29,87 hours
Additional Cost	\$9,122 (current prices)	\$319,270 (current prices)
	<b>Annual Cost</b>	
Fuel @ \$1.50 @ 10 litres per 100 km	\$1,280	
Additional Cartage for Cattle/Hay at \$3.40 per km, 15 loads per annum	\$1,295	
Forgone chargeable hours @ \$65 per hour	\$5,547	
Vehicle Write/Off	\$1,000	
Total	\$9,122	

- Please note Tractors and Trucks can only do 40km or 80 km respectively, not even the installation of the Hume highway will make a difference. We are farmers not racing car drivers.
- Mine workers and contractors are the only ones instructed to do 80 km per hour. Not the general public.

In regards to the above we are providing a suitable alternative with the 10 km upgrade of the Avonside West Road. For this upgrade to be satisfactory it could be done with minimum cost and involve the following:

- Grading and maintenance on an annual or needs basis. (Warrumbungle council have already completed this). We are not asking for it to be sealed.
- Installation of new 12ft Grids at each fence line (approx. 7) . Replacing existing grids
- Installation of two 14ft gates at each fence line allowing large machinery to be able to pass. Replacing existing double gates.

In concluding we would like to state that while the other concerns lodged in the original submission have not been adequately addressed they are issues that will arise and be addressed as the mine progresses. In regards to the road issue it is a black & white issue that can be adequately resolved at very little cost and effort.

Thank you for allowing me to make the submission and I look forward to an adequate response.

Yours Sincerely,

John, Connie & Peter Portelli

PORTELLI  
PROPERTY

GOLDEN HWY

AVONSIDE WEST RD

SPRING RIDGE RD

SANDY CREEK  
SWEENEYS LANE

DANABAR RD

APPROX 15.2 KM

APPROX 27.9 KM

SANDY CREEK RD

LAHEYS CREEK

LAHEYS CREEK RD

BRC

DAPPER RD

SPRING RIDGE RD

LAHE

BALD HILL RD

NOTE:  
CADASTRAL BOUNDARIES SHOWN WERE  
OBTAINED BY SPWAL 2008.1 AND NOT  
BEING REVISED AND ARE APPROXIMATE  
ALL OTHER BOUNDARIES COMPILED  
FROM AIR PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARE  
SHOWN FOR INFORMATION ONLY.  
BOUNDARIES FOR THIS SHOWN  
BE REFERRED TO DATA CUSTODIAN.

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CADASTRAL, PLANNING AND LAND INFORMATION MAPPING  
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ACN 123 451 827  
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GLEBE NSW 2160  
T: (02) 49 46 5147  
F: (02) 40 109 075

Drawn By: MP  
Date: 31/01/12  
Layout: A1  
Projection: MGA  
Location: Cobble  
Approx Scale: 1  
Version: 01



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## Ralph Pridmore, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

### Cobbora Coal Project

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#### Objects to this project

To Dept of Planning and Infrastructure

Dear staff,

I wish to register my views against the potential Cobbora coalmine 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.. It is almost unbelievable that a state government would propose such an old-fashioned, pre-sustainability idea. But I guess only a government that supports the Hunters and Shooters Party could do so. While our children are being taught sustainability and ethics, the state government is supporting unsustainable practices. How on earth can that make sense to the children? The half-price subsidised coal alone is backward step into unsustainability.

I voted for this government, and am more and more disappointed with it.

Ralph Pridmore PhD



3/24 Lord How Drive  
ASHTONFIELD NSW 2323

06 March 2013

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

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: OBJECTION**

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

I am a resident of the Hunter Valley and I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposal to establish the Cobbora Coal project in central west NSW north-west of Mudgee and east of Dubbo.

As a state-owned coal mining project, projected to cost the taxpayers up to \$3.4 billion and tied to the sale of the power stations, it will lock NSW into coal-fired electricity generation until at least 2036. This is an untenable and economically irresponsible position given the following considerations:

- justification for the project is based on incorrect projections of demand for coal-fired electricity over the next 10 years, demand having 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;
- renewable energy investment opportunities will be destroyed, denying new capital investment and jobs into NSW. Over \$11 billion worth of investment in wind energy alone is ready to go, waiting for the green light from the O'Farrell government. The Clean Energy Finance Corporation set up by the Federal Government has \$5 billion set aside for investment in renewable energy projects; and,
- while costing NSW taxpayers between \$1.5 billion and \$3.4 billion, the mine will be running at a loss by providing 5.5 million tonnes of coal per annum (mtpa) for 17 years at a heavily subsidised price. This is a direct subsidy to NSW power generators. The argument for continued coal-fired electricity in comparison to the long-term benefits of renewable energy sources has not been made. Taxpayer's money would be better invested in renewable energy sources.

Isn't it now time for the O'Farrell government to drop their hostility to renewable energy and work with industry and community groups to increase the renewable energy capacity of NSW.? Increasing renewable energy capacity will render new coal mines, such as Cobbora, unnecessary and save the taxpayers of NSW billions of dollars.

With NSW already being the biggest emitter in Australia and having power stations that are amongst the most polluting and inefficient in the world, the proposed mine will also have significant negative impacts on the environment for the following reasons:

- confirmed advance of climate change with nine of the ten hottest years on record occurring since 2000 and the January 2013 heat wave being described by the Bureau of Meteorology as “unprecedented, in terms of its duration, its intensity and its extent”;
- the estimated annual contribution to the carbon footprint of NSW of coal burnt from Cobbora is **29 million tonnes**;
- water demand for mining operations is proposed to increase from 3,700 ML per year up to 4,340 ML per year. The use of groundwater and surface water associated with the Cudgegong River system will threaten the water security of the wine and tourism industries in the Mudgee region. It could also threaten the long-term security of urban water supply from Windamere Dam;
- at least 79 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites will be destroyed; and, 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; and,
- the clearing of 1,959ha woodland habitat is a significantly large footprint and impacts 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, and Superb Parrot; and vulnerable microbat species including the Southern Long-Eared Bat and the Large-Eared Pied Bat.

The Preferred Project Report has failed to identify:

- adequate financial gains or security of affordable electricity prices for the people of NSW;
- an appropriate or adequate offset package for habitat destruction because this is not achievable;
- justification for the increased water demand for mining operations from the previous prediction of 3,700 ML per year up to 4,340 ML per year;
- adequate assessment of the increased pump rate from the Cudgegong River and access to higher natural flows;
- the increased dust emissions by raising the height of over burden emplacements by 20m. The air quality model needs to be redone using all available meteorological information; and,
- the health and social impacts on local residents affected by increased air pollution from fine dust particles and noise from the proposed rail loop.

The environmental, social and economic costs of the Cobbora Coal Project are unacceptable and irresponsible, while continued reliance on coal fired electricity generation is based on out-dated and short-sighted thinking. In an environment where public sector jobs are being cut and funding for health, education and public transport is constantly under attack, it is economic suicide to invest billions in a project that will impose long term economic and environmental costs on NSW and fails to pass the cost-benefit test. With the worst impacts of climate change rapidly approaching, the time to transform NSW's energy sector is now.

Yours sincerely,

Aina M Ranke

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## **J Reygersberg, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

Dear Sirs,

Please do not allow the new Cobbora coal mine, proposed for east of Dubbo.

We need our clean land for agriculture and our wildlife habitat.

It would provide heavily subsidised coal to six large coal-fired power stations, lock in decades of carbon pollution, and delay investment in clean, renewable energy.

The money would be better spent on renewable energy options.

Be careful about what the State parliament is doing now. Its mistakes might confront us later on.

Mrs. J. Reygersberg

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## Wayne Reynolds, of Bangor NSW, made the following submission on the project:

### Cobbora Coal Project

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#### Objects to this project

Dear Premier and Minister,

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

I wish to voice my objection to this proposal citing these issues

- \* This is based on a contract negotiated by the previous ALP Government as part of a Gentrader deal.This can be filled by other arrangements.
- \* This is a 3 Billion dollar cost to taxpayers ,which could be better spent on services and infrastructure to actually benefit the taxpayer and the state of NSW.There is no proof this project will provide cheaper electricity to consumers
- \* The PPR does not justify water usage increases from 3,700ML a year to 4,340ML a year.This mine will pose a threat to the urban water security from Windamere Dam and could affect the natural flow of the Cudgegong River.This could all impact the Mudgee region agricultural and tourism industries.
- \* The clearing of 1,959ha of woodland habit will impact on species listed for national protection and also impacts on a threatened ecological community.The ecological footprint for the mine is also extremely large and the PPR cannot finalise an offset package as this is totally unachievable

The Project's justification is based on an incorrect 10 year projection for coal fired electricity.Demand has dropped since the project was proposed.This will lock NSW into coal fired electricity for the next decade using poor quality coal in which the long-term affects of its use have not been adequately assessed . The 3 Billions dollars would be better invested in developing clean renewable energy sources,this will also create new employment opportunities.

I look forward to your response

Kind Regards

Wayne Reynolds  
18 Yanderra Ave  
Bangor,NSW 2234

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## **Peter Ridgeway, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

I am a young professional in rural land service administration. I wish to lodge my objection to the abovementioned project as submitted.

The scale of the proposed project appears to be considerably greater than present conservative estimates. In particular, the submitted projected coal-power demands are highly optimistic in the present context. These also fail to accommodate any response to our national responsibilities for transition to low-carbon sustainable power generation.

In addition, the environmental and Aboriginal cultural impact proposed cannot be accommodated to meet local, state, national and international obligations. In particular, it is not possible to 'offset' the clearing of almost 2,000 ha of woodland - including core habitat for threatened species - as proposed, in any meaningful way.

I call upon the planning department to demonstrate a more rational and reasonable approach to the present limited shortfall in coal for power production, in particular one which incorporates serious consideration of transition to a sustainable power industry in Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Ridgeway



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## **Mary Rogers, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

To All governments,

Australia belongs to Australians, their children and grandchildren, I as one of these Australians do not give you permission to decide to ruin our country and our environment by coal mining ANYWHERE.

Where are YOU or the rest of hard working Australians going to live and work to provide for ourselves and our families when there is nothing here to live off due to irresponsible decisions made by our governments for these destructive developments.

I am literally frightened for our future, It's on YOUR shoulders. For God's sake make the right decision.

Mary Rogers.

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## **Emma Rooksby, of Mount pleasant NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

I object to the Preferred Project Report (PPR). This mine is a crazy loss-making venture that will cost NSW tax-payers over \$3 billion to supply discounted coal to electricity generators, while also using huge amounts of water and destroying nearly 2000 hectares of natural habitat. My key concerns about the PPR are

- The economic assessment does not justify the cost of the project to taxpayers, nor respond to concerns about this issue raised in many submissions to the project, including mine.
- The PPR will further increase the area of woodland to be destroyed by the mine by 92 hectares, including an additional 11 hectares of threatened ecological community. This is a terrible outcome.
- The PPR involves extracting an additional 660 megalitres of water but does not justify this increase, in an area where water is already scarce.

Overall the direct environmental impact of this PPR are unacceptably high. That is before considering the indirect impact of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with mining, transporting and burning the coal. The government of NSW should be seeking to protect its citizens from climate change to the extent possible: unfortunately subsidizing coal-fired electricity does the opposite, by promoting creation of greenhouse gasses.

I also believe that the Cobbora coal mine is based on inaccurate predictions of future energy demand. Energy demand across Australia is shrinking and will continue to shrink as households increase their energy efficiency and install solar panels. Demand has fallen significantly since this project was proposed. Coal prices have also fallen.

Please do the taxpayers of New South Wales a Cavour and pull the plug on this wasteful and unnecessary proposal!

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## Pat Schultz, of Armidale NSW, made the following submission on the project:

### Cobbora Coal Project

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#### Objects to this project

Cobbora Coal Project - Preferred Project Report

Application No: 10-0001

Cobbora Coal Mine

5/3/13

Dear Premier O'Farrell and Planning Minister Hazzard,

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.

January this year is the hottest on record, Climate change is happening now. It is madness to consider providing Australia's electricity from coal fired power stations. Spend this \$3 billion on alternative energy production. I feel like we live in a country still in the 1900's. Please do not let Australia be left behind the rest of the world. Care for our environment. Stop the Cobbora Coal Mine

expansion now!

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.

Yours Sincerely

Pat Schultz

Pat Schultz

177 Brown St

Armidale NSW 2350

ph (02) 67725852

M 0428725852

pat.schultz@bigpond.com

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## **Michael Seay Seay, of Sutton Forest NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

We are totally opposed to the proposed Cobbora Coal Project.

We must stop destroying our country and think of our future.

We must take any measure to save our aquifers. Water is our most precious asset.

We need laws to prohibit coal mining under any and all Agricultural Land, no matter who owns the land.

Coal mining should be restricted to sparsely populated and non-productive land.

We are effectively being taxed by the government for pollution of our environment, yet the NSW government wants to add greatly to this pollution problem with this proposal. I must be missing something here because this doesn't make any common sense??

The government's ultimate responsibility is to do what is best for our country, as well as what is best and fair for the people, both now and for the future.

I know the state needs money, but we need a responsible government to achieve our needs in a better way than resorting to communist style laws on mining and land owner's rights.

Michael Seay  
331 Golden Vale Road,  
Sutton Forest, NSW

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## **Adam Sharp , of NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

Stop Cobbora Coal Mine!

##### **1. NSW needs investment in renewable energy, not coal mines**

Over \$11 billion worth of investment in wind energy alone is ready to go, waiting for the green light from the O'Farrell government. The Clean Energy Finance Corporation set up by the Federal Government has \$5 billion set aside for investment in renewable energy projects.

By locking NSW into a coal-fired future, will destroy renewable energy investment opportunities that would attract new capital and jobs into the state.

##### **2. Coal is an economic dead-end**

The project will impose long term economic and environmental costs on NSW and fails to pass the cost-benefit test.

##### **3. Environmental impacts are unacceptable**

It is estimated that coal burnt from Cobbora will contribute over 29 million tonnes of carbon to NSW's annual carbon footprint.

NSW is the biggest carbon emitter in Australia with power stations that are amongst the most polluting and inefficient in the world.

The PPR proposes increasing water demand for mining operations 3,700 ML per year up to 4,340 ML per year. The use of water from the Cudgegong River will threaten the water security of the wine and tourism industries in the Mudgee region.

The project will require the clearing of 1,867 ha woodland habitat which will compromise the survival of a large number of endangered animals and vulnerable plants. The PPR will increase the area of destroyed woodland by 92 ha including an additional 11 ha of threatened ecological communities. The ecological footprint of the mine is too high and cannot be adequately offset. The PPR does not identify a final offset package because this is not achievable.

The increased height of over burden emplacements by 20m will increase dust emissions. The air quality model needs to be redone using all available meteorological information. The proposal to implement the draft 'Rail Infrastructure Noise Policy' will disadvantage local residents affected by increased noise from the proposed rail loop.

The issue of train length on the Ulan line has not been addressed as identified in the ARTC 2012 - 2020 Rail Corridor Capacity Strategy.



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## **John Spira, of Austinmer NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

Objection to:-

Cobbora Coal Project - Preferred Project Report

Application No: 10-0001

Dear sirs,

I am a resident of NSW and I object to the above application based on the following considerations -

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

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

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

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

The clearing of 1,959ha 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.

The mine will need to use up to 4,340 ML (million litres) of water per year from surface water and groundwater interception. The use of high security licenced water from the Cudgegong River will threaten the water security of the Mudgee region wine and tourism industries. It could also threaten the long -term security of urban water supply from Windamere Dam.

The 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.

The justification for the mine is based on contracts negotiated by the ALP Govt as part of the Gentrader deal. These could be filled through other arrangements.

The ecological footprint of the mine is too high and cannot be adequately offset. The PPR does not identify a final offset package because this is not achievable.

The increased height of over burden emplacements by 20m will increase dust emissions. The air quality model needs to be redone using all available meteorological information.

The proposal to implement the draft 'Rail Infrastructure Noise Policy' will disadvantage local residents affected by increased noise from the proposed rail loop.

John Spira  
2 Headland Avenue Austinmer 2515  
Ph. 0438538393

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## **Richard Stanford, of Blackalls Park NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

---



#### **Objects to this project**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on this proposed project. I consider that continuing to develop fossil fuel and fossil fuel burning infrastructure to be reckless and unnecessary. This mine would create pollution locally, causing damage to people's health and property. It will destroy endangered natural amenity and water sources. On a global scale it will contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, when it is national and state policy to reduce these emissions.

The state funds that are proposed to build this mine should be directed towards building a renewable energy project, such as a solar thermal power plant, with thermal storage, which will have an extremely long life span and use an energy source that is freely available without mining. Renewable energy projects can create new, permanent jobs that do minimal harm to local environments and human populations and do not exacerbate climate change.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Stanford.

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## **Anne Sutherland, of Robina QLD, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

---



#### **Objects to this project**

Original submission 15th November 2012

The Cobbora Holding Company (CHC), a State owned mine, is inappropriate investment of \$3.4 billion of NSW taxpayers' money and will run at a loss. The NSW Government wants to develop a state-owned coal mine, 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.

1. The life of any mine is only about 30 years and we are left with desolation since natural ecosystems cannot be replaced.
2. This money would best be spent on development of renewable energy power plants - eg
  - a) Solar - Beyond Zero Emissions  
Suite 10,  
288 Brunswick St  
Fitzroy, VIC 3065  
Australia  
This has been developed by CSIRO and Melbourne University and is used in Spain. The salt tower ensures a constant supply of current.
  - b) Wind - About 10 wind companies have built turbines in Australia since 1098 but as yet NSW only has a penetration of 1.1% of its power generation (South Australia has 23.5%). However power supply companies give preference to coal fired generators forcing many wind companies to make poor profits and some have difficulty remaining solvent.
  - c) Geothermal has died a horrible death despite early Federal support.
3. The project justification is based on outdated electricity demand and coal price projection since China is reducing its imports.  
China's economic growth is now ready to be weaned from its addiction to coal and the State Council decision - including apportioning responsibilities to local governments and enterprises - this shows a stronger political consensus has been reached to mobilise the bureaucracy.  
Pan Jiahua, who heads a team of climate change economists at China's leading think tank, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told Fairfax Media that the State

Council's endorsement of the energy target had the effect of elevating it into a "political requirement". He said officials in local governments and state-owned enterprises would now be judged partly on their ability to meet energy targets while a long list of green slogans, incentives and policies were translating into concrete measures. Professor Pan said energy security remained the primary motivation behind the measures but last month's record pollution readings in North China had contributed to the hardening of political will. "Chinese people have done enough tolerating such bad air," he said.

4. 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 and aims to provide cheap domestic coal to power stations in the Upper Hunter and Central Coast. The recent parliamentary inquiry has called for an independent review to establish the necessity of the Cobbora mine, including a full examination of the subsidy involved in selling the coal below the market price. It was recently revealed in a report by the NSW Auditor-General that the coal from the mine will be supplied to government power stations for \$31 a tonne, believed to be less than the price paid on some existing contracts. The poor quality of the Cobbora coal has been assessed by the bank analysis, as well as \$120 million cost of building rail links to connect the mine to the existing rail line.

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

6. The project has a very large footprint and will cause major environmental impacts on woodland habitat (The planned project will destroy 1,867ha (47km<sup>2</sup>) 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 bittern, malleefowl, regent honeyeater, superb parrot; and vulnerable microbat species - southern long-eared bat, large-eared pied bat - see my submission 13th November 2013). Ecotourism and recreation opportunities will be lost.

7. As well as groundwater and surface water sources and loss of at least 79 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

8. The project will destroy valuable agricultural land. The proposed 300km rail link, 80m wide will occupy a further 240km<sup>2</sup> of land.

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 and destroy the ground water systems for townships.

## Recommendations

1) The Cobbora Coal Mine should not go ahead.

2) Instead the money can be used for what the people of Australia want which is renewable energy development and new research science advances to solve life after our resources run out - we currently use 1 ½ Earths every year.

3) Money can be spent on more jobs which will directly help people in education,

ecotourism, better public hospital services, arts, music and sport which will be the real jobs in a difficult future. Birth control needs to be publicised.

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## **paul sutton, of dinas powys NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

---



#### **Objects to this project**

1. The ecological footprint of the mine is too high and cannot be adequately offset. The PPR does not identify a final offset package because this is not achievable.
- 2.. The economic assessment of the project and response to submissions has not adequately addressed the cost of a state-owned coal mine to the taxpayers of NSW.
3. The PPR does not justify the increase in water demand for mining operations from the previous prediction of 3,700 ML per year up to 4,340 ML per year.
4. The increased pump rate from the Cudgegong River and access to higher natural flows has not been adequately assessed.
5. The project cannot guarantee a `reliable, secure and economically stable domestic coal supply (to) NSW generators' nor can it guarantee `affordable electricity in NSW.'
6. The issue of train length on the Ulan line has not been addressed as identified in the ARTC 2012 - 2020 Rail Corridor Capacity Strategy
7. The proposal to implement the draft `Rail Infrastructure Noise Policy' will disadvantage local residents affected by increased noise from the proposed rail loop.
8. The increased height of over burden emplacements by 20m will increase dust emissions. The air quality model needs to be redone using all available meteorological information
- .9.The PPR will increase the area of destroyed woodland by 92 ha including an additional 11 ha of threatened ecological communities.
10. The justification for the mine is based on contracts negotiated by the ALP Govt as part of the Gentrader deal. These could be filled through other arrangements.

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

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

---



#### **Objects to this project**

I have made no donations of \$1000 or more to any politicians in the last TWO YEARS.

Looking at the Executive Summary 28 pages.

It says the coal can be . . . "extract the coal without unacceptable social and environmental impacts." YES extraction can be made to sound reasonable but burning the coal will be unacceptable no matter who burns it or where it gets burned. When we have a manageable and safe way of burning it then perhaps plans can be changed.

ES1.2 "the government announced it would need".....what about wind, concentrating solar thermal or solar tower? All sustainable not adding to damage already done by burning more fossil fuel.

ES1.5 "NSW Environmental Planning Assessment Act 1979" is clearly unacceptable for a project lasting until 2037.

ES3 did these people know so little about the unacceptable problems of burning any more fossil fuels? What about the futures of to-days children and their children?

ES3.1.2 groundwater is a scarce commodity. It might have helped photo-synthesis by plants to recover CO2. It will be reduced for 50 years. NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

ES3.3.4 JOBS ETC. Sustainable electricity would also provide jobs and skills.



ES4.1.1 "the project will not be a hazardous or offensive development." NONSENSE

ES5.1 . . . "This will be achieved through implementation of an environmental management system that will ensure the commitments in this EA are met.. . and contributions to partnerships with physical and social infrastructure providers." NONSENSE

ES6.2 . . . "help provide affordable electricity." BY WHOSE CALCULATIONS IF YOU ADD MORE FOSSIL CO2 TO THE ATMOSPHERE.

ES6.3 . . "monitoring land use not co-ordinated." At times it has been and in future more might be done on the farm land until 2035. Coal Mining will be detrimental for more than a couple of decades.

ES6.4 nothing is said about continuing to contribute to global warming by providing more fossil fuel to burn in a completely unacceptable manner.

ES7 . . nothing is said about continuing to contribute to global warming by providing more fossil fuel to burn in a completely unacceptable manner.

Let us start helping to make the future better not worse.

Three months ago I contributed the following in which I have now included three minor adjustments. In the last three months people have been more conscious of the costs of the increased frequency of extreme weather events and saying the problems seem to be worse than the earlier expert forecasts.

Cobbora Coal Project

John J Swainston B.Vet.Med. (London. 1961)  
48a Sunrise Rd. Palm Beach, NSW 2108  
Email: jjswainston@gmail.com  
Phone -61-2-9974 4420

This Cobbora Coal Project should not go ahead.

NSW Government should decide that this fossil fuel should be left safely underground without any disturbance.

The NSW Government should show others that it can accept responsibility for making a decision for the benefit of global humanity.

The Planning Assessment Commission is presented with the planning submission based on current legislation and they will need to make a recommendation for mining coal until about 2035. It is now abundantly clear that our current legislation and international agreements are no longer competent for decisions on fossil fuels that are now underground. What will happen when in the next few years people want to stop the mining and demand compensation for those who have suffered from the ill effects of the mining and burning of fossil fuels?

Rejecting this Cobbora Coal Project could be a small step in the right direction. It would say the coal should be left safely where it is and no one anywhere will have the benefit of the coal. People will need to find other work opportunities. If less fossil fuel is burned then fewer people (estimated to be about 150 million) of the globe will be forced to move from their productive farmlands in river land deltas. Greenhouse gasses are useful plant nutrients but man has failed to make adequate use of them due to shortages of global water and new farmland. Stopping this coal mine will help slow down the escalating wild weather events, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, flooding and bushfires which are all increasingly damaging.

This decision goes to the Commission who may see the presentation and think it deserves approval. This is the first step. The plan offers more cheap coal for cheap electricity and maybe more exports of coal from NSW and Australia. This will be more grist to the mill. Sell the coalmines and go on burning more fossil fuels. And so we see how competing politicians have the power and how they may play their power games as the process goes from the Commissioners to the politicians. Lots of our current legislation is out of date and not appropriate for the needs to give up burning fossil fuels. Fossil fuel companies are worth hundreds of billions of dollars and they have to grow to justify their jobs. Are these people making decisions for themselves or for global humanity? Which of these people know about "The Limits to Growth"?

You can search lots of web sites and sources of government information and none of them provide the whole story or convey the urgency with which everyone should be giving up burning fossil fuels. Make sure you look at reports from <http://www.ipcc.ch/> Risk management at <http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX/> Go to <http://beyondzeroemissions.org/> because they have shown that Australia could stop all use of fossil fuels and do it within 10 years with currently available wind turbines and concentrating solar thermal energy at a cost of about \$10 per household per week plus the needs for electric cars. Then Wikipedia, in USA: <http://www.epa.gov/> and NGOs or do a Google search for "climate change deniers list" and see some distractions. The fact is that every country has their own history, politics, fears, skills and resources. The sooner people can stop increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere then the sooner people can decide what else can be attempted.

Australia applied a carbon levy on 1 July 2012. Attached at the end of this submission is an announcement from The Hon Mark Dreyfus having a dig at Greg Hunt on 5th December 2012. There is no mention here of China's one child policy operating since 1979. Also there is no history of nuclear power since 1954. Nuclear energy has been

quite safe and now supplies about 19% of electricity in USA. USA also has 6.4% of electricity produced by hydroelectricity.

About 1859 John Tyndall reported the potential warming effect of burning fossil fuels increasing the Carbon Dioxide content of the atmosphere.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Tyndall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Tyndall). Since about 1859 Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere has increased from 280 ppm to 397 ppm. The recent increases have been about two parts per billion each year. Sea level could rise about a metre by 2060. So far global temperatures have increased about 0.8 degrees centigrade, most of that in the last 30 years. Estimates are that temperatures are likely to rise by another 1.1 to 6.4 degrees centigrade until 2100. Newspaper reports this year have dramatically demonstrated that the adverse consequences of global warming seem to be exceeding forecasts. Can this deterioration be stopped or even reduced? Most of this problem is due to burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas. The fact is that the sooner we can stop burning 90% or more of these fossil fuels the sooner this deterioration can be slowed down and the sooner people can address the problems of people and domestic animals over-populating the globe. In 1972 D. Meadows et al. had published a book "The Limits to Growth" which has since had supportive reviews after 30 and 40 years. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Limits\\_to\\_Growth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Limits_to_Growth)

Current estimates are that in the next ten to thirty years Australia could be supplying around eleven percent of global demand for coal and natural gas. If Australia leaves these fossil fuels untouched and in the ground then withdrawing these supplies from world markets will help escalate world prices for these fossil fuels and make renewable energy more competitive.

The fact is that the sooner we all stop burning fossil fuels then the sooner we can improve our chances in this world. Rejecting The Cobbora Coal Project is an opportunity for NSW Government to make a small contribution to global wellbeing. The issue is how many of the global population do we all help and how soon? Globally we now have just over seven billion people. Will we get to the nine billion people anticipated or will global population start heading for the one and a quarter billion we had in the year 1900?

From Hon Mark Dreyfus, 5th December 2012:-

THE HON MARK DREYFUS QC MP

Cabinet Secretary

Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

Parliamentary Secretary for Industry and Innovation

5 December, 2012

OPINION PIECE - THE PUNCH

## Greg Hunt, Where Are You? Still Nowhere Credible On Climate Change

A notable absence of truth in the climate change debate has come from the Opposition's Greg Hunt all year, and his latest misrepresentations are true to form.

No personal offence to Greg, but it does pay to do your homework occasionally. I have represented Australia at many of this year's international climate change negotiations, so attending Doha on behalf of the Climate Change Minister is fairly logical and not so remarkable.

We understand your motives. You don't have much to hang your hat on.

First, let's deal with the Opposition's pretence - or is it ignorance? - that there is no international action.

As we sit here in Doha, Australia is working with governments from 197 countries to create a new international agreement by 2015 that will legally bind all nations - developed and developing - in the monumental task of cutting carbon pollution to slow down climate change. Yes, Greg, you might have missed it, but that does include the US, China, the EU and India. They're all here today. It's not a hallucination.

While the world puts together the nuts and bolts of this agreement, the vast array of action to price carbon across individual countries is escalating year on year.

Rather than just make it up like the Opposition, let's rely on a sprinkling of facts and figures.

Next year, more than 50 national or sub-national regions, including all of Europe and beyond, will have emissions trading schemes or a carbon price, covering a combined population of around 1.1 billion people.

China is now the world's biggest investor in renewable energy, complementing emissions trading starting up in seven cities and provinces. These "micro schemes", as Greg Hunt calls them, cover 250 million people and represent the world's second largest emissions trading scheme, which China intends to expand nationally after 2015.

The Opposition also clings obsessively to the misguided idea that the United States is not acting and will not act. This would be news to President Obama.

"I am a firm believer that climate change is real, that it is impacted by human behaviour and carbon emissions."

"Now, in my first term, we doubled fuel efficiency standards on cars and trucks. That will have an impact. That will take a lot of carbon out of the atmosphere. We doubled the production of clean energy, which promises to reduce the utilization of fossil fuels for power generation. And we continue to invest in potential breakthrough technologies that could further remove carbon from our atmosphere. But we haven't done as much as we need to."

"So you can expect that you'll hear more from me in the coming months and years about how we can shape an agenda that garners bipartisan support and helps move this

agenda forward." - President Barack Obama, 14 November, 2012

A hostile Congress refusing to pass climate laws has resulted in the Obama Administration pursuing less economically efficient measures to cut pollution. It is not by preference as Greg Hunt wrongly asserts.

And for the record, note the emissions trading schemes in 10 US states: California (economy-wide), and in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont, covering the power sector, alongside national EPA standards regulating pollution from the largest industrial emitters.

Greg Hunt's catalogue of falsehoods goes on and on and we could spend all day dissecting them. Suffice to say he wants us to see the hole and never the doughnut.

He urges us to stop wasting our efforts with carefully designed, economically responsible, internationally-linked, pollution cutting schemes and `non-existent' international climate negotiations.

He has the answer: rainforests. A simple plan to protect the great rainforests of the world - "the single biggest, fastest thing the world can do to reduce emissions right now" he says.

And sure enough, it's as simple as the other measures in the Opposition's Direct Action plan to cure climate change. It's right up there with Mr Abbott's plan to carpet all of Australia's productive farmland with trees or the miracle of soil carbon which will enable Australia to magically bury most of its carbon pollution, even though the CSIRO says this technique, if we can get it to work, would reduce less than 1% of our pollution.

When all of these illusions have melted away, and the fear campaign drained of its last drop of political potency, we will finally come face to face with the one, single certainty that Australian voters already sense. For all the denials, for all the hyperbole, for all the muddying of the waters, and if their moment arrives, Mr Hunt and the Opposition will be keeping Labor's price on carbon.

Mark Dreyfus is Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. He's leading the Australian delegation at the UN climate change negotiations in Doha, Qatar.



Bob Taffel  
66B Artarmon Rd  
Artarmon, 2064

4<sup>th</sup> March, 2013

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



Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Cobbora Coal Mine Project**

As a resident of Sydney and a NSW power consumer I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the proposed Cobbora Coal Project.

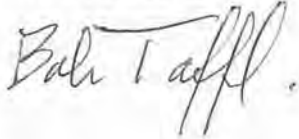
I am informed that the following considerations need to be taken into account and I earnestly request that you do so. As a NSW power consumer I am concerned that the proposed expenditure is not in the consumer's and NSW residents' best interest. Should this project not proceed to implementation then, in my opinion, at least 65% of the averted cost of the project should be used by the government to further support renewable energy projects.

1. The economic assessment of the project and response to submissions has not adequately addressed the cost of a state-owned coal mine to the taxpayers of NSW.
2. The project cannot guarantee a *'reliable, secure and economically stable domestic coal supply (to) NSW generators'* nor can it guarantee *'affordable electricity in NSW.'*
3. The justification for the mine is based on contracts negotiated by the ALP Govt as part of the Gentrader deal. These could be filled through other arrangements.
4. The PPR does not justify the increase in water demand for mining operations from the previous prediction of 3,700 ML per year up to 4,340 ML per year.
5. The increased pump rate from the Cudgegong River and access to higher natural flows has not been adequately assessed.
6. The PPR will increase the area of destroyed woodland by 92 ha including an additional 11 ha of threatened ecological communities.
7. The ecological footprint of the mine is too high and cannot be adequately offset. The PPR does not identify a final offset package because this is not achievable.
8. The increased height of over burden emplacements by 20m will increase dust emissions. The air quality model needs to be redone using all available meteorological information.



9. The proposal to implement the draft *'Rail Infrastructure Noise Policy'* will disadvantage local residents affected by increased noise from the proposed rail loop.
10. The issue of train length on the Ulan line has not been addressed as identified in the ARTC 2012 – 2020 Rail Corridor Capacity Strategy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Taffel", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Bob Taffel**

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**(Name withheld), of Ilford NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

## **Cobbora Coal Project**

---



### **Objects to this project**

I have owned my rural block for a bit over 10 years now. The central tableland area is rolling green fields and forested hills. Unfortunately in the past few years there seems to be so much expansion of coal mining activity. One hill is currently being stripped for coal. This mindless destruction is altering central tableland in every aspect farmland, bush, wildlife, rivers, creeks etc. The short term gain in mining is not worth the destruction of the area. Coal mining also contributes to climate change which will unfortunately accelerate the impact in a stressed area caused by mining already. I am against further open mining in greater Central Tableland area.



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## **Ifeanna Tooth, of Woollahra NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

The proposed Cobbora coal mine will cost taxpayers over 3 billion dollars, destroy nearly two thousand hectares of wildlife habitat, and provide cheap coal to our state's coal-fired power stations which are already increasing NSW's greenhouse gas emissions. This is planned to continue 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 taxpayers money should instead be directed to solar or wind generated energy projects which would create more jobs and less greenhouse gas emissions.

**Matthew Riley - Stop Cobbora Coal Project**

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**From:** Paul Vonwiller <paulvonwiller@rocketmail.com>  
**To:** <matthew.riley@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 2/13/2013 2:56 PM  
**Subject:** Stop Cobbora Coal Project

---

Dear Matthew Riley

I put forward a submission concerning the approval to coal mine the most beautiful and picturesque part of the Cabbora.

**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. Wouldn't you rather the NSW Government spent this money on schools, health and public transport?

Also, according to what was shown on 12th April 2010 on ABC Four Corners, the coal mine in the Hunter Valley region is causing serious health problems to the community and workers which is having devastating effects.

Also, reported on ABC News on 16/4/20210, approval was given to coal mine Camberwell in the Hunter region which will ruin the lovely landscape and creek. The Dooralong Valley in the Wyong region, shown on 18/4/10 on ABC News, will also be devastated, having a serious impact on the environment with its significant picturesque atmosphere. This is totally unacceptable suffering for the residents and their children with asthma. I was so horrified to see what harm this is causing to the community. This is going to cost a lot more in the long-term on medical treatment and for residents who need to shift elsewhere.

There is no way that a coal mine should be allowed to harm the environment especially with concerns about Climate Change. We have to think about sustainability; there needs to be a phase out of the coal industry and for it to be taken over with "Green Collar" industry plus renewable energy.

We can't afford to ruin the location and must think in the long-term for a sustainable future.

We must respect the tourist attractions of the environment.

I have grave concerns about the greenhouse gas emission that is mostly resulting from the coal burning that is having a devastating impact on the environment.

I am also concerned about your approval for new coal fire powered stations near Lithgow and the Hunter region. According to what I heard on ABC 702 am 27/4/10 that the Blue Mountain National Park near Lithgow is being destroyed from coal mine doing serious harm.

I had put a previous submission when Nathan Rees was Premier concerning the threat to close railway lines by helping to re-open railway lines for more passenger train service. I had also put a previous submission when Morris Iema was Premier to help save Anvil Hill from a coal industrial zone plus the rally I participated in June 2007.

I look forward to your response.

Please notify me what action will be taken to help these issues to be resolved.

Yours Sincerely,  
Paul Vonwiller

Terence James Wall  
6 Top Deck  
53 Ronald Avenue  
Shoal Bay NSW 2315

7<sup>th</sup> March 2013

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am an active member of the Tomaree Rate Payers and Residents Association Inc, EcoNetwork Port Stephens Inc and the Shoal Bay Community Association Inc.

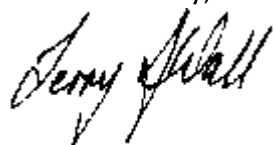
I am absolutely appalled that the NSW State Government is about to grant permission for the Cobbora Coal development to proceed.

I wish to object on the grounds:

1. Global Climate Change Risk: 99 percent of scientists believe that human released carbon is having a catastrophic effect on the delicate balance of the worlds climate and to ignore this evidence in favor of corporate mis-information is an absolute crime. Using the precautionary principal is a common sense and anyone with a vestige of moral integrity would never agree to this program.
2. Renewable energy is now so close to "on a par with carbon based energy" in terms of cost, that it makes any decision involving long term investment shaky at best. Take away the taxpayer subsidies that the fossil industry still receives and add some charge for the toxins released by burning coal, oil and gas and the answer will see proponents in the International Court of Justice.
3. Those who suggest that we need base load power has not been looking at the data. Most of Australians live on the east coast where there are lots of hills allowing for hydro storage which can provide a easy and inexpensive battery, filling in the gaps needed by renewable energy sources.

The investment should better be spent on Bio Char production, tree planting, water efficiency technology. Water and food are the new areas of concern. Corporate stupidity is well demonstrated by the over development of the electricity transmission just at the very time when electricity is about to become cheaper when produced locally.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry J Wall', written in a cursive style.

Terry J Wall

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## **Adrian Watkins , of Mt Barker SA, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

---



#### **Objects to this project**

Dear Premier & Planning Minister

Please find enclosed my submission in relation to the propose Cobbora Coal Mine.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Watkins

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Cobbora coal mine. While I am not a resident of NSW I believe that opening of the Cobbora Coal Mine will affect where I live due to increased carbon dioxide emissions, loss of habitat & loss of biodiversity.

People are becoming increasingly aware that destruction of the natural environment is having a deleterious effect on our economy and on our living standards. The Cobbora coal mine, if it proceeds, will wreak massive destruction on yet another part of Australia's natural environment. It is therefore critical that this project be stopped very dead in its tracks.

The mine may provide jobs & profits but these are all short term and will pale into insignificance when compared with the long term losses to be endured by the Australian people if the mine proceeds. Far more sustainable energy alternatives exist to offset any short term energy & profit losses from canning of the project. A number of these alternatives could be located in the Dubbo area and sustainably benefit the local

economy.

I therefore strongly urge all authorities connected with the project reject it.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Watkins

PO Box 744 MT BARKER SA 5251

awnathab@gmail.com

0428 375 066

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**gerrit werkhoven, of forest lodge NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

## **Cobbora Coal Project**

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### **Objects to this project**

Hey !, youz planning cobbers, Cobbora coalmine is a definite NO-NO.

BURN even MORE CO2AL ? ! . . . . .

That = environmental vandalism, it is a conscious and deliberate criminal act.

I know that youz know that we need renewable energy and we need it yesterday.

My [and your] child's "quality of life" will depend on it all-too-soon.

<http://beyondzeroemissions.org/> sums it up. Read it.

Then make the decision that does not benefit the few-&-wealthy, but all those two-legged suckers on this lonely planet, who all also have a once-in-a-lifetime go at it.  
please

Signe Westerberg

PO Box 553,

Liverpool 1871

4.3.13

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

**Cobbora Coal Project – Preferred Project Report**

**Application No: 10-0001**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**It's time we took responsibility for global climate changes and adding to this by adding more coal mines is disgusting.**

*I am a long time resident of Liverpool and while I don't live in the area, the idea of more and more coal dust, excavation etc disgusts me. It is time we moved to renewable and sustainable power generation.*

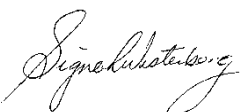
*Whilst I appreciate the opportunity to comment I feel it is essential that the 'powers to be' listen very carefully to what we are saying... we don't want to lose our precious farm lands to mining, we don't want to risk our precious water to mining and we certainly don't want to risk our health to the side effects of mining this great land.*

*I cannot fathom how we can consider selling our farm land to overseas multinationals only to let them dig it up. I cannot fathom why we subsidise the industry to such enormous lengths and I certainly cannot understand why our governments are being directed by big business... it's we the voters you work for and It's we the voters you will either retain your job or lose it.*

*Please redirect the \$3Billion to where it is needed, schools TAFE's and job creation in renewable industries. Remember it's our taxes you are prepared to fritter away, we the people want the money spent on the future not the past.*

*Time to Man up minister and say no more, our planet is far to important to risk its future for a short term income.*

Respectfully,



Signe L Westerberg



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## **Samantha Whittingham , of NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

Please can you consider,

##### **1. NSW needs investment in renewable energy, not coal mines**

In its preferred project report Cobbora Holding Company says: "Electricity can be generated by renewable means, such as solar, wind and biomass, but only in relatively small quantities due to the very low energy intensity of these sources. Electricity generation using renewables is not yet able to meet the reliability or cost society demands for electricity and will not be able to in the immediate future."

Contrary to what Cobbora Coal Company argues, transitioning to a secure renewable energy supply is not only possible, it is affordable.

Over \$11 billion worth of investment in wind energy alone is ready to go, waiting for the green light from the O'Farrell government. The Clean Energy Finance Corporation set up by the Federal Government has \$5 billion set aside for investment in renewable energy projects.

By locking NSW into a coal-fired future, will destroy renewable energy investment opportunities that would attract new capital and jobs into the state.

Now is the time for the O'Farrell government to drop their hostility to renewable energy and work with industry and community groups to increase the renewable energy capacity of NSW.

Increasing renewable energy capacity will make investment in new coal mines like Cobbora unnecessary.

##### **2. Coal is an economic dead-end**

The Cobbora coal mine was originally designed to provide cheap coal to state owned electricity generators.

In effect, taxpayers were locked into a deal to provide 5.5 million tonne of coal per annum (mtpa) for 17 years at a heavily subsidised price.

The risks associated with developing and operating the mine are to be borne by the public, while the gentraders who own the right to trade the electricity from the power

stations are set to enjoy a locked in, below-market cost coal stream for almost 2 decades.

Forecasts for total state costs and risks associated with developing Cobbora Coal mine have been placed as high as \$3.4 billion, while the NSW Treasurer has admitted to a cost impact of at least \$1.5 billion.

The project will impose long term economic and environmental costs on NSW and fails to pass the cost-benefit test.

State investment in energy infrastructure should be directed towards encouraging the development of renewable energy projects, not new coal mines to prop up the coal fired electricity industry.

### 3. Environmental impacts are unacceptable

NSW is the biggest carbon emitter in Australia with power stations that are amongst the most polluting and inefficient in the world.

Proceeding with Cobbora coal mine will provide these power stations with a cheap source of coal for decades to come.

It is estimated that coal burnt from Cobbora will contribute over 29 million tonnes of carbon to NSW's annual carbon footprint.

The environmental, social and economic costs of coal are unacceptable. With the worst impacts of climate change rapidly approaching, the time to transform NSW's energy sector is now.

### 5. Other issues

The PPR proposes increasing water demand for mining operations 3,700 ML per year up to 4,340 ML per year. The use of water from the Cudgegong River will threaten the water security of the wine and tourism industries in the Mudgee region.

The project will require the clearing of 1,867 ha woodland habitat which will compromise the survival of a large number of endangered animals and vulnerable plants. The PPR will increase the area of destroyed woodland by 92 ha including an additional 11 ha of threatened ecological communities. The ecological footprint of the mine is too high and cannot be adequately offset. The PPR does not identify a final offset package because this is not achievable.

The increased height of over burden emplacements by 20m will increase dust emissions. The air quality model needs to be redone using all available meteorological information. The proposal to implement the draft 'Rail Infrastructure Noise Policy' will disadvantage local residents affected by increased noise from the proposed rail loop.

The issue of train length on the Ulan line has not been addressed as identified in the ARTC 2012 - 2020 Rail Corridor Capacity Strategy.

Thank for reading my points to consider.

If you could respond and let me know how you might approach these points for the future.

Kind regards

Samantha Whittingham

## **OBJECTION TO THE COBBORA COAL MINE – Application No: 10-0001**

Sidney Wilcox  
PO Box 909  
Merimbula  
NSW 2548

Mobile – 0407 242 852

I, Sidney John Wilcox of Unit 82, Bimbimbie Retirement Village, 34 Monaro St., Merimbula, NSW, 2548 submit my very strong objection to the proposed development of a state-owned coal mine at Cobbora near Dubbo.

At a time in human history when carbon emissions are such a threat to the wellbeing of planet earth it is unbelievable that such a large development is planned and when the Federal Government has put a price on carbon it makes no sense to be developing such a coal mine particularly one subsidised by the taxpayers when the cost of this development could instead be used for the development of renewable energy.

### **I also make the following points of objection to Preferred Project Report (PPR):**

1. The economic assessment of the project and response to submissions has not adequately addressed the cost of a state-owned coal mine to the taxpayers of NSW.
2. The project cannot guarantee a *'reliable, secure and economically stable domestic coal supply (to) NSW generators'* nor can it guarantee *'affordable electricity in NSW.'*
3. The justification for the mine is based on contracts negotiated by the ALP Govt as part of the Gentrader deal. These could be filled through other arrangements.
4. The PPR does not justify the increase in water demand for mining operations from the previous prediction of 3,700 ML per year up to 4,340 ML per year.
5. The increased pump rate from the Cudgegong River and access to higher natural flows has not been adequately assessed.
6. The PPR will increase the area of destroyed woodland by 92 ha including an additional 11 ha of threatened ecological communities.
7. The ecological footprint of the mine is too high and cannot be adequately offset. The PPR does not identify a final offset package because this is not achievable.
8. The increased height of over burden emplacements by 20m will increase dust emissions. The air quality model needs to be redone using all available meteorological information.
9. The proposal to implement the draft *'Rail Infrastructure Noise Policy'* will disadvantage local residents affected by increased noise from the proposed rail loop.
10. The issue of train length on the Ulan line has not been addressed as identified in the ARTC 2012 – 2020 Rail Corridor Capacity Strategy.

## **OBJECTION TO THE COBBORA COAL MINE – Application No: 10-0001**

In addition I note that -

The coal is extremely poor quality product with high ash content and the health impacts of using poor quality coal have not been assessed.

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

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

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

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

The clearing of 1,959ha 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.

The mine will need to use up to 4,340 ML (million litres) of water per year from surface water and groundwater interception. The use of high security licenced water from the Cudgegong River will threaten the water security of the Mudgee region wine and tourism industries. It could also threaten the long-term security of urban water supply from Windamere Dam.

The 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.

Submitted by Sidney Wilcox, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2013

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## **D Williamson, of Rd NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

Dear Mr O'Donaghue,

Removing twenty-nine million (29 000 000) Tonnes of fossilised carbon from the proposed Cobbora coal mine will condemn our & many other species, including you to an early death due to global warming. This proposal must be rejected on this basis.

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## **Linda Wilson, of Summerland Point NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobborra Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

I am writing to register my strong objection to the proposed Coborra Coal Project.

The environmental damage to build this mine is unjustifiable.

The cultural damage from the destruction of 79 Aboriginal Cultural sites is unjustifiable.

The amount of water required is unjustifiable.

The continuation of coal-fired power stations in this era of

Climate Change is not only unjustifiable but criminally irresponsible.

The extreme weather events across Australia are enough to make it patently obvious that we cannot ignore the fact that CLIMATE CHANGE IS HERE NOW.

Therefore the government would be wise and responsible to spend the \$3.4 billion proposed for the Cobarra Coal Project on developing sustainable, renewable energy production.

Thank you for considering my objections to this project.

Yours faithfully,

Linda Wilson

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## **Raymond A Wooster, of Gulgong NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

8 March 2013

Dear Mr O'Donoghue,  
Objection  
Cobbora Coal Project- Preferred Project Report  
Application No: 10\_0001.

In my previous submission in November 2012, I commented on the inadequacy of the Environmental Assessment Report as it relates to the Cobbora mine's impact on the water resources of the Mudgee region. At that time Cobbora Mine stated it needed 3,700ML per year for its mining operations.

The Preferred Project Report now states that the mine will need 4,340ML per year, an increase that has not been fully explained in its report. Nor has there been an adequate assessment of the extra pumping from the Cudgegong River, and Cobbora's use of the higher natural flows.

I am also concerned about the increased dust emissions as a result of raising the overburden by 20 metres. The original modelling of the air quality did not use all available weather information, focusing instead on (so-called) the most frequent wind directions, and so presented a very distorted picture.

For these reasons I ask that the Cobbora Coal Preferred Project be refused.

Yours sincerely

Mr Raymond A Wooster  
71 Wynella St  
Gulgong NSW 2852

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## **Carol Young, of Wheelers Hill VIC, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

Re- The Cobbora Coal Project

It is with ongoing concern that I acknowledge that our governments continue to invest in coal projects that are detrimental to the environment in so many ways.

They:

- \*Provide a form of unclean energy
- \*Ravage the local terrain
- \*Affect groundwater
- \*Remove ecological habitat from flora & fauna
- \*Impact on the quality of life on the people in the immediate vicinity

The money poured into such developments as the Cobbora Coal Project could be better spent on investing in renewable energy.

I hope that the above concerns, which echo those of many taxpayers, will be sufficiently persuasive to encourage the NSW Government to shelve the project.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Young

BSc.GradDipAppSci(Micro), Dip Teaching

MASM, MAIFST.



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## **Safwan Zabalawi, of Pymont NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

The plans to develop Cobbora coal mine in the state's Central West will be responsible for pumping over 29 million tonnes of CO2 into the atmosphere each year and will squander valuable opportunities to develop the renewable energy sector.

It is time to consider the far reaching consequences rather than short or immediate gains - and it is time to invest in renewable energy.

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## **Richard Zoeller, of Erskineville NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

I welcome the opportunity to put forward reasons why the approvals for this State financed Coal Mine should not proceed:

1. The Mine is an ill conceived investment of \$3.4 bill of NSW taxpayers money.
2. The Mine will be a run at a continuing loss. It is in effect another subsidy (gift?) to companies that bought the generator assets after having done their economic modelling and deciding they were a profitable investment.
3. The Mine can not guarantee a "reliable, secure and economically stable domestic coal supply to NSW generators", as the time frame for the Mine operation and the the life of the generators has not fixed.
4. The Mine's water use drawn from the Gulgong R has not been adequately assessed. Nor has its effects on local and downstream users.
5. The Mine will have severe and improperly considered effects on local populations: wildlife and human.

I consider this consequences of this development have had only a very limited and narrow considerations. The interests of coal fired generators seem paramount: the policy and precedent considerations for investing tax revenue in this manner have not.

I urge your reconsideration of this project.

Richard Zoeller  
41/2 Coulson St  
Erskineville 2043

email: rz@netpower.com.au

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**(Name withheld), of Casuarina NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

## **Cobbora Coal Project**

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### **Objects to this project**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a resident of NSW and an advocate for environmental issues in Australia and around the world, I oppose a future Cobbora coal mine for the following reasons:

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

As well the project cannot guarantee a `reliable, secure and economically stable domestic coal supply (to) NSW generators' nor can it guarantee `affordable electricity in 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.

I am concerned that the increased pump rate from the Cudgegong River and access to higher natural flows has not been adequately assessed.

As well 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.

Another reason I oppose the mine is the clearing of 1,959ha woodland habitat will impact on species listed for national protection with 100% loss of local population of several endangered animal and plant species.

Thankyou for the opportunity to make a submission on the revised Cobbora coal project.

Yours sincerely,

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## **(Name withheld), of Rylstone NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

As a resident of the area I object to the Cobbora coal mine on the following grounds. If built, this mine will cost taxpayers more than \$3 billion, destroy nearly two thousand hectares of wildlife habitat and be responsible for hundreds of thousands of tonnes of CO2 over its lifetime. It will also lock NSW into coal-fired power generation for at least the next 20 years at a time when other electricity generators in Australia and all over the world are moving towards renewables such as wind, solar (photo voltaic and thermal), tidal and geothermal.

As do all open cut mines, Cobbora will have a very large environmental footprint and have a major environmental impact on the woodland habitat of endangered species. It will also impact on ground and surface water in what is already a dry region of NSW and destroy or damage at least 79 Aboriginal heritage sites.

Clearing nearly 2000 hectares of woodland will destroy a listed Endangered Ecological Community, Grassy Box Woodland; and a wide variety of endangered and vulnerable plants. Ecologists predict that clearing of the woodland would result in the 100 percent loss of the local population of *Tylophora linearis*, endangered bird species including Australasian bittern, malleefowl, regent honeyeater, superb parrot; and vulnerable micro bat species - southern long-eared bat, large-eared pied bat.

Coal mines use a lot of water that could more sustainably be used elsewhere - for agriculture for example. It is estimated Cobbora will need to use over 4,000 megalitres of water per year from surface water and groundwater interception. It proposes to do this by using high security licenced water from the Cudgegong River. . The Preferred Project Report has not adequately assessed the impact of the increased pump rate from the Cudgegong; however, it will almost certainly threaten the water security of the Mudgee region wine and tourism industries. These industries are already under pressure from the wine grape glut, the high Australian dollar and general economic uncertainty which has been exacerbated by NSW State Government funding cuts and restructures. Using this amount of water each year could also threaten the long -term security of Mudgee's urban water supply from Windamere Dam.

The cost benefit analysis for the project has not taken into account the social disruption the mine would cause. There are already three large and one smaller mine in the area and as a resident I'm only too familiar with this aspect of coal mine development which has been disregarded by government for too long. People who were born in Mudgee and have lived there all of their lives are being priced out of the housing market due to competition for housing. Competition for workforce with other industries means that getting tradespeople is next to impossible and all varieties of companies such as mechanics, panel beaters and light industries struggle to keep skilled worker. This impacts on residents in terms of higher prices and general lack of availability as well as on the agricultural industry across western NSW. The costs of major infrastructure

upgrades, particularly rail lines, to accommodate additional coal transport has not been factored in. Nor has the loss of amenity in towns and properties along the coal chain which will be impacted by additional noise and dust from increased coal train movements.

Not only would this mine be an act of ecological vandalism it would also be economic vandalism. The justification for the mine is based on incorrect projections of demand for coal-fired electricity over the next 10 years. Demand for electricity has dropped significantly since this project was first proposed, as part of the Keneally government's electricity privatisation deal, and as such there is no real need for additional coal supplies. The price of coal has also dropped since then and it would be relatively easy to put a hedging strategy in place to guard against future price spikes.

The mine would also run at a loss due to the high ash content of the coal and the distance the coal would need to be railed. The money would be far better spent on continuing to fund efficiency measures, investing in renewables and providing low/no interest loans to businesses and households willing to invest in reducing their electricity consumption. Government ministers like to deride the Greens and other left-wing parties as Trotskyists yet the vertical integration represented by the development of the Cobbora coal mine would be Stalinist were it not a direct subsidy for recently privatised electricity generators.

Lastly, I would like to raise some specific points of objection to the Preferred Project Report (PPR):

1. The economic assessment of the project and response to submissions does not adequately address the cost of a state-owned coal mine to NSW taxpayers.
2. The project will not achieve its objectives of a 'reliable, secure and economically stable domestic coal supply (to) NSW generators' nor can it guarantee 'affordable electricity in NSW.'
3. The PPR does not justify the increase in water demand for mining operations from the previous prediction of 3,700 ML per year up to 4,340 ML per year.
4. The PPR will increase the area of destroyed woodland by 92 ha including an additional 11 ha of threatened ecological communities.
5. The ecological footprint of the mine is too high and cannot be adequately offset. The PPR does not identify a final offset package because this is not achievable.
6. Increasing the height of over burden emplacements by 20m will increase dust emissions, however, these calculations have not been redone. The air quality model needs to be redone using all available meteorological information.
7. The proposed 'Rail Infrastructure Noise Policy' will disadvantage local residents who will be affected by increased noise from the proposed rail loop.
8. The ARTC 2012 - 2020 Rail Corridor Capacity Strategy identifies issues with train length on the Ulan line. The PPR and the government continues to stick its head in the sand and ignore the problem.

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## **(Name withheld), of Ashfield NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a member of the Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales and I am writing to object to the proposed Cobbora Coal Mine.

I object to the coal mine on the following grounds:

1. That it will cost NSW taxpayers approx. \$3.4 billions dollars and will be run at a loss. This is not in the interests of taxpayers.
2. This money would be better spent on renewable energy sources.
3. Demand for coal-fired electricity has dropped dramatically since this project was proposed.
4. In these times of climate crisis, the government should be reducing carbon emissions, not locking NSW into coal-fired electricity generation until at least 2036.
5. I object to the clearing of 1,949ha of woodland that is habitat to endangered and vulnerable plants, including 100% loss of the local population of *Tylophora linearis*, endangered bird species and vulnerable microbat species.
6. The massive amounts of water required for this coal mine will threaten the water security of the Mudgee region.

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## **(Name withheld), of Clandulla NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

Cobbora Coal Project - Preferred Project Report  
Application No: 10-0001

##### Objection to Cobbora Coal Project

This project is a total misuse of taxpayers money. If tax payers money is to be used to subsidise the cost of electricity it should be done by making renewable energy more affordable through subsidising solar panels for lower income groups.

This project does not fit in with the principles of ecologically sustainable development to which the state government has supposedly committed itself.

Other key points of objection are:

The economic assessment of the project and response to submissions has not adequately addressed the cost of a state-owned coal mine to the taxpayers of NSW.

The project cannot guarantee a `reliable, secure and economically stable domestic coal supply (to)NSW generators' nor can it guarantee `affordable electricity in NSW.'

The justification for the mine is based on contracts negotiated by the ALP Govt as part of the Gentrader deal. These could be filled through other arrangements.

The PPR does not justify the increase in water demand for mining operations from the previous prediction of 3,700 ML per year up to 4,340 ML per year.

The increased pump rate from the Cudgegong River and access to higher natural flows has not been adequately assessed.

The PPR will increase the area of destroyed woodland by 92 ha including an additional 11 ha of threatened ecological communities.

The ecological footprint of the mine is too high and cannot be adequately offset. The PPR does not identify a final offset package because this is not achievable.

The increased height of over burden emplacements by 20m will increase dust emissions. The air quality model needs to be redone using all available meteorological information.

The proposal to implement the draft `Rail Infrastructure Noise Policy' will disadvantage



local residents affected by increased noise from the proposed rail loop.

The issue of train length on the Ulan line has not been addressed as identified in the ARTC 2012 - 2020 Rail Corridor Capacity Strategy.

As members of the current government categorically stated when they were in opposition: this project should not go ahead.

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## **(Name withheld), of Bathurst NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

Cobbora mine objection

NSW should invest in renewable energy, not coal.

Cobbora coal mine is being subsidised by the state- it is not economically viable. Investment in renewable projects would cost less and have less environmental impact. Many wind energy projects are now awaiting approval by the NSW government. The federal Clean Energy Finance Corporation has \$5 billion available for investment in renewable energy projects.

This coal mine will greatly increase NSW's carbon output for many years to come.

The use of water from the Cudgegong River will threaten water security of the region.

Large areas of woodland habitat will be cleared threatening the survival of endangered plants and animals.

Tourism, the wine industry and food production in the region will all be adversely affected.

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## **(Name withheld), of burge Rd woy Woy NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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#### **Objects to this project**

The cobarra coalmine should not be built because viable cost effective alternative energy investments which provide a secure future for the people and taxpayers of NSW are now competitively available and . Investors are waiting in the wings to get going here.

The environmental science and economic modelling as well as non green defence department intelligence briefs from organisations such as the CIA have shown that It is an environmental food security and national security disaster not to change to modern renewables.

A business model not based on the now well established climate science would be our downfall.

Renewables investment has surpassed fossil fuel investment according to Bloomberg last year.

Australia needs a piece of that pie and to provide an operational basis for future industries.

It should not dig its heels literally into the dirt like a child with a tantrum who feels that its favourite dirt truck is being taken away.. We have always had the courage to change and innovate in the past

Australia needs to stop using wasting public money to sell its soul and prop up something which is not competitive and not working namely fossil fuels.

We all now know and secretly admit to ourselves that the world will have to abandon fossil fuels anyway. Let's just get on with the future for heavens sake. What is so difficult about making much more money on that?

Let's get over the fact that the greens were right, forget the past, and get on with the future together of progressive world business and make some real money. Start re-positioning current business setups to start getting ahead of the game using our big advantage in the world, namely Australian creativity and innovation.

We know we can do it with our can do entrepreneurs.