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## Mark Alderton, of Bar Beach NSW, made the following submission on the project:

### Cobbora Coal Project

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#### Objects to this project

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Newcastle and have a professional experience in Environmental Science and a personal interest in 21st Century Sustainable Energy Technologies

As a tax-payer I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed project, namely Cobbora Coal (situated in central west NSW north-west of Mudgee and east of Dubbo) because Cobbora is a state-owned coal mining project.

My understanding is that the proposal is to mine 20mtpa (million tonnes per annum) to produce 12mtpa of usable coal. This suggests an extremely poor quality product with high ash content. The project aims to provide cheap domestic coal to power stations in the Upper Hunter and Central Coast. The health impacts of using poor quality coal should therefore be properly assessed.

The justification for the project was based on projections of demand for coal-fired electricity over the next 10 years that do not take into account the drop in demand since this project was first proposed. The mine will cost the NSW taxpayer approx \$3.4billion but will be run at a loss. That is, NSW Taxpayer's money will be further used to directly subsidize another coal-fired power generator. The argument for continued coal-fired electricity in comparison to the long-term benefits of renewable energy sources has not been convincingly made. In my opinion this 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 the 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 licensed water from the Cudgegong River will threaten the water security of the Mudgee region wine and tourism industries. It could also threaten the long-term security of urban water supply from Windamere Dam.

The 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.

As it stands this poorly conceived and unnecessary project would lock NSW into coal-fired electricity generation until at least 2036. It is inconceivable that as a scientist, parent and grandparent I could accept this.

Public criticisms of the Preferred Project Report (PPR) that have not as yet, in my opinion, been adequately addressed are:

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 respectfully,

Mark Alderton

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## **Richard Allan & Susanne Mary Skates , of Booral 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

Monday, March 4, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

We object to above report for the following reasons.

The economic assessment and response to submissions has not adequately addressed the cost of a state owned coal mine to the taxpayers of NSW, as the project cannot guarantee a reliable and economically stable domestic coal supply nor can it guarantee affordable electricity in NSW.

There is no justification for the increase in water demand from 3700ML per year to 4340ML per year nor has the increased pump rate from the Cudgegong River been adequately assessed.

The amount of destroyed woodland will increase by 92 ha, this threatens ecological communities and the overall ecological footprint of the mine is too high and it is not adequately explained how this would be offset if in fact it could be.

Air quality from dust emissions is not adequately addressed neither is the noise impacts from the rail link and these two facts will disadvantage local residents. The living quality of local residents will be further destroyed and their property values degraded.

In fact this mine justification is based on contracts negotiated by the past ALP government as part of a Gentrader deal and could be filled through other arrangements.

Sincerely,



Richard Allan and Susanne Mary Skates

116 Washpool Road, Booral. NSW 2425

TO: Plan\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au  
**OBJECTION: Cobbora Coal Mine**

RE: Application 10-0001

From: Bev Atkinson,  
67 Park St, Scone NSW 2337, 02 6545 3005  
To whom it may concern:

2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2013

Thankyou for receiving my previous comments, and forwarding the responses.  
I see the coal dump has been moved away from the watercourse. Very good.

#### WATER AND ECONOMICS

However the water situation troubles me still. The Cudgegong is a very little river, which hardly ever fills the Windermere Dam even now. Cobbora mine wants a huge amount of water both from river and underground, to wash this coal because it is of contaminated quality. Considering also that more volume has to be processed per yield, than for coal of better quality, is this any kind of value to the public for huge loss and investment? Is all the coal in Cobbora of this low grade?

We hear that lower grade coal damages elements within the power stations. No matter how cheap the coal, any savings are surely offset by extra maintenance and replacements. The discarded parts become useless, lost investment, useful only to be recycled expensively. The entire replacement process, labour, importing etc, is a continual drain against profits. The local power stations have had their day already. Why prop them up?

We have to wonder whether this poor coal is worth the trouble being taken for it. Especially so, since the high grade coal now exported, may well be begging a buyer in a few years time, leaving Cobbora superfluous.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE; COSTS AND LOSSES NOT CONSIDERED SUFFICIENTLY.

The public must pay for the rail and road works associated; we are subsidising the mine with our taxes even before we buy its supposedly 'cheap' electricity. So how does this mine benefit any Australian? We don't even manufacture the machinery imported to dig it out.

Coal is pushing infrastructure also, around Scone where I live. It is the Miner who should be paying for every piece of infrastructure arising from its freighting of coal; not we the taxpayers.

And that infrastructure should be placed way out of any town, not in it. DO NOT WRECK SCONE, DO NOT WRECK GULGONG: these towns matter. All towns matter.

The coal trains would become a menace and a blight in quiet, historical and delightful Gulgong, benefiting nobody, and affecting everyone, just as happens here. The unique status of Gulgong is not appreciated in PPR.

It is as if, in the rush to accommodate mining for the sake of it, the people themselves are just in the way. For example, the Report refers to commuter trains being mere concessions to humanity, slotted into the timetabling of coal trains. We are in the Hunter, constantly in fear that the commuter trains we rely on will be knocked out of the timetable altogether, rather than augmented as we need.

And we know mines don't bring local jobs; they take away local specialist workers from the towns instead, lowering the quality of life. The spin about bringing jobs (while hiding the downsides) is seen right through.

#### RATIONALE; ETHICS OF PROCEEDING.

The Preferred Project Report does not dwell on responses in the area of ethics and justification. I want this corrected. The number of responders wishing to 'save the earth' needs to be taken very seriously. *There is only one way to go for this Earth now, for us; and it is down. Governments must slow the crash, not speed it.*

*\*\*SMH: 21.10.2009, then leader of the Opposition Mr O'Farrell said: "the public service has become demoralised... we promise to introduce legislation governing ethics, integrity, performance and accountability, including a code of conduct similar to that in Victoria".*

*That does not square with destroying our productive land, our small rivers, our heritage and communities, for trashy coal. (Nor with handing over the choicest parts of public Newcastle, its Rail especially, to developers!*

Consider not proceeding with this low grade mine. Consider investing to encourage carefully inserted and locally compatible clean energy projects instead, each one as suited to its environment as possible.

Look in detail at the comparable ongoing cost benefit. Consider the continuation of the otherwise destroyed farms and communities, and the added employment and profits from say, the wind, solar and geothermal investments. Consider that these benefits would continue indefinitely, well past the end date of the mine.

So far we see here in the Hunter, little evidence of successful re-establishment of natural, productive farms and habitat on mine dumps. Only last month, three dairy farms fell apart; we all know about the wine zones dying, and the horse industries being threatened by encroaching mines and impacts. This is not OK.

Consider the future of the heritage rich town of Gulgong, its survival as such, being dependent on its economic success from tourism. No-one wants to holiday, paint, visit or research next to a coal mine. No-one.

A few days ago we saw on ABCTV a coverage of Carnegie College, Fife, Scotland. In a decade, following a time of concern after all the coalmine closures there, the entire industrial education and employment scene has restructured around production of wind turbines and other sustainable energy systems. Now, local people are more positive, educated and healthy, proud and confident than ever in the old fashioned coal age.

It makes me feel ashamed and embarrassed that Australia is so backward, that its only thought process is apparently “ have coal, have demand, buck to be made, so tick the Project”.

Is NSW really stupid enough to think “We can, therefore we should” ? The Report tries to push the idea. *Actually, not all we are able to do, and not everything that turns a buck, should be done.* Is this news? By the look of the Preferred Project Report, it is still an unknown concept. Government should test if a project is desirable; not merely check that it is economically viable over some short term for some entity or person. NB, the spinoff cash sweeteners from mining towards green-tinged activities is mere window dressing.

Compare the triple bottom line: economic, social, environmental.  
Everyone on the receiving end would prefer NO Cobbora coal mine. Government cannot ethically allow all of us, and future generations, to be outweighed by a profiteer. We expect better of Governments. Governments should be deeply involved in demand reduction, ESD, and saving our planet. Some already are!

I have taken note of a fair bit of detail in the written Report. But my conclusion is more general:

I request that from here on, **true rationale, and ethics** regarding this unnecessary and backward Cobbora mine take precedence in the discussion.

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment.

Bev Atkinson  
67 Park Street, Scone NSW 2337  
02 6545 3005 [beva4@bigpond.com](mailto:beva4@bigpond.com)

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## **Darren Baguley, 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.

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

Major Planning Assessments  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Cobbora Coal Project**

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

I welcome the opportunity to comment on this project.

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

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

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

How can the state government justify such an inappropriate proposition?

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

This project must be rejected in its entirety.

Yours sincerely



Terry Barratt BSc(Hons)

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## **Graeme Batterbury, of Lillian Rock NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

Major Planning Assessments,  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Dear Sir,

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. It will also contribute substantially to green-house gas production in an age where minimisation of green-house gases is dire. The spending of \$3bn is a preposterous mis-use of public monies and who can tell what the cost of remediation from this excessive green-house gas production will be.

Key points of objection to Preferred Project Report (PPR):

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.

Yours sincerely,  
Graeme Batterbury  
91 Robb Road,  
Lillian Rock NSW 2480

ph: +61 (0)2 6689 7098  
m: +61 (0)413 613 690  
e: stageone@nrg.com.au



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

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please rethink the NSW plans for future power generation by spending \$3billion on solar and wind technologies rather than the filthy polluting coal fired power stations.

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.

Yours sincerely  
Peter Bellew

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## **Julie Bennett, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

Dear Sirs,

If the Cobbora coal mine is allowed to proceed it will mean the destruction of over 1,850 hectares of native woodlands, loss of important agricultural land and damage to groundwater resources. The \$3million needed for developing such a coal mine should be spent on developing renewable energy and not blindly relying on polluting coal fired power stations in Australia and overseas.

Yours truly

Julie Bennett

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## **John Berry & James Fleming , of Darlington NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Dear Sir/ Madam

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

I am strenuously object to the above application for the following reasons -

1. 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.
2. 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 project is fiscally irresponsible.
3. The Cobbora coal mine, 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.
4. 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.

Sincerely yours

John Berry

James Fleming

30 Calder rd

Darlington

NSW 2008

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## **Barbara Bible , of QLD, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

To Whom It may concern within the O'Farrell Government

You really must consider stopping this insane quest to destroy our beautiful rich country, you must understand our country is not just for the people living and enjoying it now but also for our future children, who will one day be the adults of tomorrow.

We must do all we can to ensure while we have some kind of respect and control do all we can to give the next generation an environment which is clean and healthy. This means the air we breath and also the water we drink.

If you have not had the opportunity to see the program " Gaslands " then please do enlighten yourselves. This is a documentary on the facts of Coal seam gas and what effects it has on any environment, including ours.

Please do not believe that the procedures in Australia will be any different from any other country that these companies seduce the governments with BS reports and \$\$\$\$\$. It will end in underground water pollution and air pollution.

I request your genuine consideration for all Australian's now and our future generations to be your true and only real concern. \$\$\$\$ are only short lived.

Thank you

Kind regards

Barbara Bible

A caring and true lover of our wonderful country

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## **Janelle Bicknell, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

To whom it may concern,

Application No: 10-0001.

I am writing this email of my concern about the Proposed open cut mine in Cobbora. I believe that this mine will cause detrimental impact on the environment as well as having a negative health impact such as increase in traffic incidents as well as the inhalation of coal dust and the large consumption of water it will use which will not benefit the community.

Regards

Janelle Bicknell

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

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

4 March 2013

Dear Mr O'Donoghue,

Cobbora Coal Project- Preferred Project Report  
Application No: 10\_0001  
Letter of Objection

The economics of this coal supply would be unreasonable for the taxpayers of N.S.W, and the PPR cannot guarantee a stable coal supply.

The increased water use in mining is unsustainable and would also necessitate an increased pump rate from the Cudgegong River, and I don't think this has been taken into account.

Most distressing is the increase of destruction of natural woodland by 92ha which includes some threatened ecological communities.

The ecological footprint of the mine is too high and cannot be adequately offset! No adequate offset plan has been provided.

There will of course be an increase in dust emissions. Local residents will also be affected by the increased noise from the proposed rail loop. Also the increase in rail length exceeds the Rail capacity.

For all the above reasons I wish to register my extreme disapproval of the Cobbora Preferred Project.

Yours Sincerely,

Ms Bertha Kay Binns  
127 Herbert St  
Gulgong NSW 2852

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## Joshua Black, of Dubbo NSW, made the following submission on the project:

### Cobbora Coal Project

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#### Objects to this project

I oppose this coal mine and would like it to be stopped for the following reasons:

- there is a very good chance that the mine could do irreparable damage to the aquifers around Dunedoo.
- the air quality of the surrounding area will be negatively impacted. There is a lot of medical evidence that says how bad open cut mines are for lung health.
- this mine will destroy the native ecology of the area forever. A tree replanting program in 35 years time is simply a token effort.
- As a State and as a nation we should be putting all our efforts into renewable energies. We could then sell China our technology - rather than our finite coal resource. Renewables are the way to go - not dirty coal.



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## **Douglas Blackwell, of Congarinni NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

Dear Sir,

Re: Cobbora Coal Project

I welcome the opportunity to comment on this proposed project. We previously lived in the Upper Hunter Valley and experienced the adverse effects of coal mining at first hand. Our property was to the west of Muswellbrook and the more recent mine at Wybong, north-west of the mines around Singleton and south-east of the mines in the Ulan area. We were regularly subjected to the dust from these sources due to the prevailing winds from the south-east and the north-west.

Our health was impacted by the dust we experienced in the air, our water and in the soil. This situation was reported to the local member and the Local Area Health Service. Neither were interested or concerned to help us or the wider community in dealing with these uninvited effects. This lack of support from officialdom was disappointing.

I believe the rationale for this mine is to provide designated coal supplies for NSW power stations to ensure affordable power into the future. It would appear that changing technology and economies will see this project a white elephant long before the anticipated expiry of the mine. To my mind the \$3bn that this project is expected to cost would be better directed to subsidizing the take up of more efficient appliances and equipment and reducing the demand for power. Not only would this spread the benefits to the voting public, but would reduce the huge expenses involved with maintaining and renewing power generation plants as well as have very positive environmental benefits. It is understood that power stations are the worst causes of pollution in the State.

The real costs, if the mine is approved, will be borne by individuals, existing rural businesses, adjacent communities and the ever neglected environment. From past experience we know that the mine will be given priority with water allocations ahead of existing legitimate users in established industries. Those downstream, all the way to the Murray River mouth, will be subjected to toxic spills and discharges from mining operations despite all the assurances from the company and the conditions imposed.

People living in the environs will be subjected to the dust particles from the mine, the machinery and the explosives used in the operations. This dust will affect their air, water and soil, and consequently their health.

Noise and infrasound will be other sources of nuisance inflicted on those living in the vicinity of mines or the infrastructure supporting the operation. Changing water tables will impact on farming operations and the environment. The repair of any loss of amenity caused by mining operations should be a conditional responsibility placed on the operators of any mining development . The State already accepts this principle in the case of properties affected by road noise adjoining new motor ways.

If the economic assessment of the project factors-in the long term costs, including the on-going loss of income by affected farming, the health costs to individuals and communities, environmental and heritage damages and the long term legacy costs that society will be left with, would this project be an asset to the State? If the decision is made to proceed why should established residents and businesses be forced to pay for the `benefits' that will be enjoyed by the community? Society should be prepared to compensate those disadvantaged by any such development. Community, heritage and the environment should not be without value in any assessment.

Some of us believe an improved quality of life is of far more value than a higher standard of living. The real question is, are we planning for people or for corporations?

Yours faithfully,

Douglas Blackwell

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## **Derek Bolton, of Birchgrove NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

---



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

I object most strenuously to this appalling proposal. This state government was most particular that IPART's recommendations for a feed-in tariff for domestic PV would not cost one cent of taxpayer money, yet billions of dollars are to be spent subsidising coal. It makes no sense for the economy, the environment, for jobs, or for supply security:

A supply of coal for 20 years implies some new-build coal-fired stations. Electricity from new-build coal has an LCOE of around \$100/MWh, already undercut by wind. The full cost of coal has major externalities not counted in that price: health, environmental damage, state-funded infrastructure. There are more jobs in renewable energy than there are in fossil fuel. (If there weren't, it would be a lot cheaper.)

Now that domestic PV is hitting grid parity at peak times, electricity demand is dropping. The first hot summer for some years in NSW produced nothing like the demand that would have been anticipated just a few years ago. There is no urgency for more baseload generation.

Derek Bolton  
15 Wharf Rd  
Birchgrove 2041  
9818 2719

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## **Helen Borland , of NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

I wish to register my objection to this project. I am sure many people will have objected already in a far more erudite and eloquent way than me so I shall just say stop being shortsighted and destroying the environment in pursuit of dollars. It is good that you are not allowing CSG etc projects within 2 miles of communities and agriculture but you shouldn't be allowing them at all. You refuse windfarms because they don't look very nice and make a noise but allow mines that polute and kill wildlife and destroy the environment.

Regards  
Helen

Dept of Planning & Infrastructure.

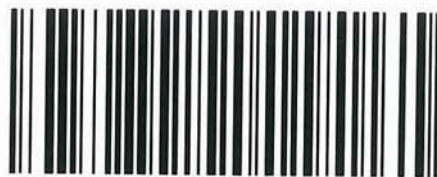
Belvedere 1715 Castlereagh Hwy.

Major Projects.

PO 327 Gulgong 2852. 1st March 2013.

Box 39 G P O Sydney 2001

Attention Steve O'Donoghue.



PCU042161

Dear Steve O'Donoghue,

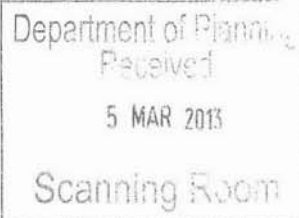
Addisional Submission to Object to Cobbra Coal Project.

I will preface this by stating not one of the matters I have raised have been delt with in any shape or form.

1. Proposed Changes to the rail corridon bring it even closer to my Home now distance from section of land formerly J & C Burge to the direct north of Belvedere who were threatned with Aquisition if they did not sell. Is less than 1Klm.
2. Now proposal states proposed road closures to the direct north of Belvedere (one through land formally J & B Hill Goldaringa and the second through J & C Burge Bonny Downs now both owned by Cobbra Holdings without any notice to me the adjoining land holder in both cases and as previously stated by Steve Ireland at meeting 14th May 2012 at the Gulgong High school that I would be given access through both. Now although I did not record the Conversation, which would be Illegal I did however dial an associate and leave the line open so that the conversation could be witnessed and that person is willing to attest to the contents of that conversation.
3. My Inability to cross stock Saftley with the intended increased rail traffic from the mine has not been delt with.
4. The Proposed road closures will cause further devaluement of Belvedere Cobbras Attitude of Because we can will not be tolerated.
5. Cobbras own maps show we share the same aquifer and I have in my possession Aero Magnetic maps which show this fact as well cobbras maps also show spring country of Belvedere once they are in full production processing millions of tonnes of coal for export I and others farmers will lose our previously safe water supply 14 of my 16 dams are spring fed.
6. The enjoyment of my property of wich I'm entitled will be savagely curtailed not to mention my sleep being disrupted by the constant train movements my previously peacefull existance will become impossible, All this through no fault of my own.

KerryAnne Bourke 63759617 0427 759617

Find Attached maps as discussed.

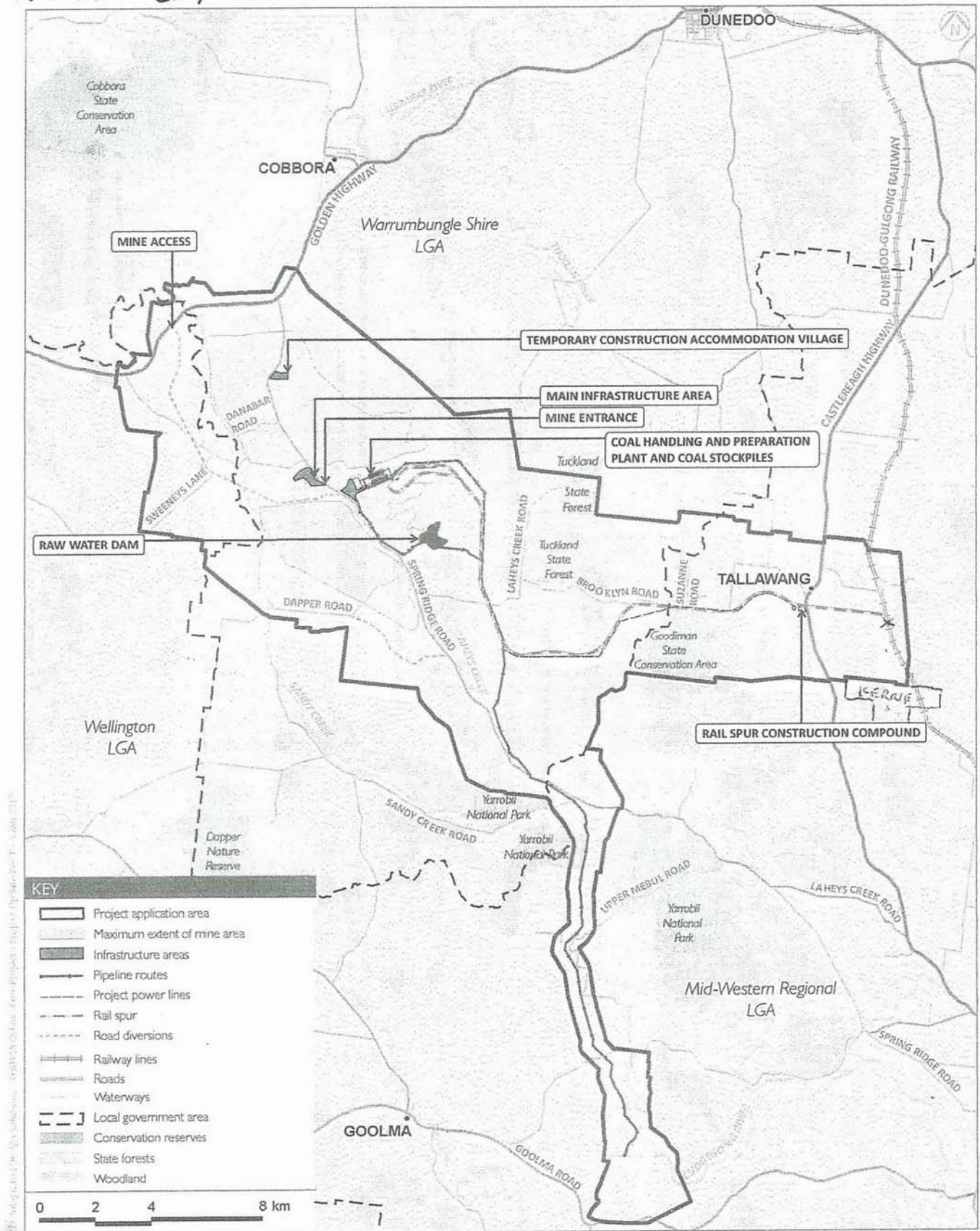








ATTACHED TO LETTER ADDRESSED TO YOU FROM  
 PHILIP TOWLER ENQA, MITCHELL MCCLENNAN  
 RED DOTTED LINE ON COLOUR MAP SHOWS  
 MINE EXPLORATION LEASE BOUNDARY



3km to  
house  
from  
point  
of  
junction

Project Application Area  
 Cobbora Coal Project

EXISTING STRUCTURE 40X40 MACHINERY SHED  
 HOUSE ABOVE + TO THE RIGHT

10 January 2012

Our Ref: SI KB 12/022

K A Bourke  
"Belvedere" Lot11/Castlereagh Hwy  
TALLAWANG NSW 2852

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: COBBORA COAL PROJECT – EXPLORATION LICENCE NUMBER 7394

Cobbora Holding Company Pty Limited (CHC) is a State owned entity formed in January 2011 to develop the Cobbora Coal Project. The project proposes to supply up to 9.5 million tonnes of coal per annum to three major coal-fired power stations in NSW.

We are writing to you as the Exploration Licence for the Cobbora Coal Project is on or near your property.

During the past 12 months, the scale of the project has been reduced and design modifications have been made to reduce environmental impacts. The Department of Planning and Infrastructure issued revised requirements for the environmental assessment in October 2011. The environmental studies are now underway based on the new project footprint and the Department's requirements.

It is anticipated that the environmental assessment for the project will be submitted to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and placed on public exhibition in August 2012.

On 24 November 2011, the NSW Premier announced that the government would sell the State-owned electricity generators and sell or lease the Cobbora Coal Project. The development of the project is still progressing, as the coal is still needed and contracted to the power stations.

Please find attached for your information a project fact sheet and answers to some frequently asked questions.

As a neighbour to the proposed project, you may have questions or require further information. CHC welcomes your enquiries, and would be happy to arrange a representative to visit at a time convenient to you.



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

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

This proposal will do long term damage to the local ecosystem, the local community, the ecosystems and communities that the coal travels through and where it is used. It will contribute significantly to global warming when other methods of renewable energy generation will not.

The assessment of the need for this mine was made prior to significant changes in supply and value and before the damage it will cause at every step of its extraction through to its use was fully realised. It is no longer a viable option.

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## **Elisabeth brasseur, of MUDGEE NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

Back in December, I sent you my objection to the opening of a new coal mine in Cobbora.

Today I want to reiterate my objection, this time regarding the Preferred Project Report.

I know that mining companies do that all the time, but I still get infuriated that a company, owned by taxpayers, can now request an increase in water supply when water is the exact reason why the Cobbora mine shouldn't go ahead. The company also wants the area of destroyed woodland increased when we know that the environment damaged by a mine can never return to its original state. More people will consequently be affected by these changes too.

As I have said previously we should stop destroying more environment and aim at reducing climate change. Please endeavour to develop alternative energies. And above all I adamantly request the NSW government to not go ahead with the Cobbora Project.

Yours sincerely,

Elisabeth Brasseur  
4 George St,  
MUDGEE NSW 2850

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

### Cobbora Coal Project

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#### Objects to this project

Dear Sirs

I wish to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cobbora Coal mine. This is a complete waste of taxpayers' money which should otherwise be spent in developing renewable sources of energy for the State of NSW. It is time for governments to halt the expansion of polluting industries which are exacerbating the effects of climate change. We will have more extreme weather conditions in the future if greenhouse gases are not lessened and this State (and your government) should be taking the lead on this matter.

I assume you all have children/grandchildren. The legacy this generation leaves them should be as clean an environment as possible. This is our responsibility. I have one vote. You have the power to make wise decisions.

Yours sincerely.

Fay Briggs

Concerned citizen

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## **Griselda Browne, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

Head of Planning NSW,

Dear Sir.

Please withdraw your approval for the Cobbora Coal Mine. We are under serious threat of global warming and this is not the time to be proposing more coal fired power stations. This is quite apart from the environmental devastation that it would bring.

Yours faithfully, Griselda Browne

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## Geoffrey Bull, of Clifton Grove NSW, made the following submission on the project:

### Cobbora Coal Project

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#### Objects to this project

I object to the proposed coal mine. NSW will be profoundly affected by climate change. Increased severe weather events, such as flooding, drought and bushfire, are forecast. Governments should be doing what they can to protect the population from such disasters. No more coal mines should be approved, and an urgent move to renewable energy sources should be mandated and encouraged.

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## **Veronica Burns, of Mudgee NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

##### **OBJECTION**

This email is to object in the strongest possible terms to the development of a coal mine at Cobbora on the following grounds:

We have just been through a very dry summer with low water levels in our dams and water tables. There has not been adequate assessment of flows to ensure that domestic water requirements will be secured. The amount of water projected to be taken from the Cudgegong river for this mine will prove an ecological disaster and once the damage is done it will be too late to return the environment to its former state.

Mr O'Farrell's government is compounding the damage done to this state by inadequate inquiry into coal mines that characterised the previous Labor government. State owned coal mines are costing the NSW taxpayer at the expense of better hospitals in country areas.

The ecological impact of this mine in dust, water use, damage to flora and fauna, noise from coal trains and general pollution is too high and its value to NSW taxpayers has in no way been proven nor have adequate answers been given to previous submissions.

regards

Veronica Burns

77 Lewis Street

MUDGEE.

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## **Michael Burton , of Spencer NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

Dear Dept of Planning and Infrastructure

I question the value of investing in a new coal mine at Cobbora. It would make better sense, both economically as well as environmentally, to invest in renewable energies like solar and wind. \$3b is a lot of money, and coal is the fuel of the last millennium.

Regards

Michael Burton  
Spencer, NSW 2775

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

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

Good Morning :

I would like to voice my objection to the Cobbora Coal Project.

1. This will prevent development of renewable sustainable energy sources & lock in a continuation of destructive carbon pollution.
2. The majority of NSW taxpayers want their money spent on environmentally sustainable sources of energy.
3. If approved this project would destroy vast areas of our natural environment.
4. The extraction of water from the Cudgegong River is totally unsustainable to an already fragile river system that is part of the overused Murray Darling basin.
5. Extraction of cheap lower grade coal will only increase destructive environmental impacts.

Regards:

Alan Carpenter

Inventory Controller



Ph: (02) 9609 0230

Mob: 0411 766 620

Fax: (02) 9609 4561

Cameron's Transport

Alan.Carpenter@amcor.com.au

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## **George Carrard, of Oatley NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

---



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

Opening new coal mines is a dead end.

A right-minded government that is not addicted to money and power would not even think of permitting the mining of coal.

Every bit of coal mined can be used to put carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and make it even more difficult for our children to cope with global warming and climate change.

Anyone in government who does not believe that the cutting down of CO2 emissions to the atmosphere is a matter of critical urgency should do a short course in systems analysis, with special attention to the instability of systems that contain positive feedback loops.

The world climate is unstable.

Shortage of coal will give incentive to the task of finding alternatives to fossil fuels. Pressure to phase out fossil fuels is a matter of urgency. Drastic reduction of carbon emissions will mitigate to a slight extent the tragedy that our children will face.

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## George Carrard, of Oatley NSW, made the following submission on the project:

### Cobbora Coal Project

---



#### Objects to this project

We shouldn't be doing anything that could result in putting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. That includes fracking, which also has other unproven long-term environmental effects.

We should be pulling out all stops to encourage sources of energy that do not put carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. If we don't, then our descendants will wonder what happened to their basic rights to clean air and a half decent climate.

It is too late to avoid catastrophic climate change but anything we do now will mitigate to a slight extent the plight of our children and grandchildren. The idea that climate change cannot occur suddenly has been refuted by ice-core measurements. (See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfkLHxQe-SU>).

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## **Ryuji Carruthers, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

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

I strongly oppose this project and support the development of renewable energy. We must turn coal subsidies into renewable energy subsidies and start rapidly reducing our carbon emissions as we are already seeing the effects of climate change on our planet. I support our planet's biodiversity not its destruction.

Your sincerely,  
Ryuji Carruthers

# **Cobbora Coal Project – Preferred Project Report**

***Application No: 10-0001***

## **Submission to the Planning Assessment Commission**

Submitted by:  
Dominic Case  
24 The Avenue  
East Balmain  
NSW 2042  
7<sup>th</sup> March 2013

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

**Dear Sir/Madam,**

As a resident of New South Wales, I wish to **object** in the strongest possible terms to this appalling proposal for a number of reasons.

## **RENEWABLE ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION**

Extracting and burning this amount of coal flies in the face of any attempts to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

It is now well-established that burning coal at the current rate is resulting in a steadily increasing amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and this in turn is leading to global warming and climate instability. Scientific predictions made in increasing detail over the past decades are now being confirmed by actual observations as well as our experiences of extreme weather events. These are already costing governments millions (billions, world-wide) of dollars in assistance and rebuilding costs, as well as losses to the economy.

Predictions of the demand for electricity in NSW over the next ten years are significantly overstated. Demand has dropped significantly since this project was proposed. Even if demand were to rise, there is no reason for it to be met with coal-fired energy, and every reason why alternative energy sources should be sought.

Coal-fired power is no longer acceptable technology. Wind power has already been shown to be cost-compatible with coal power, and installation of wind generators will only get cheaper as the technology is taken up and refined even further. Additionally, domestic solar PV installations are already providing a significant contribution to the state's power needs, especially at peak demand times.

## **ECONOMIC ISSUES**

The project would be heavily subsidized by the NSW taxpayer, to an estimated total of \$3.4 billion over the lifetime of the project. It is quite unacceptable that the people of NSW should be forced to subsidise an operation that will cause so much

environmental damage, and do nothing whatsoever to reduce the state's ongoing dependence on coal-fired power, or to advance alternative, clean, renewable technologies.

This money would be better spent managing a transition away from this sunset industry, and developing the state's clean energy resources. While coal is still abundant in NSW, solar and wind energy are also in plentiful supply, and the technology to utilize them is well-developed now. With strong leadership, NSW could exploit the potential employment opportunities in the renewable energy sector, and achieve a transition to a vibrant renewable energy economy in a few years.

## REGIONAL HEALTH AND RESOURCES ISSUES

This proposal is to mine 20 million tonnes per year, but only just over half of the material extracted will be useable coal. The health impacts of extracting this poor quality material have not been fully researched.

Mining on this scale in this area will significantly impact the established local industries of wine growing and tourism, especially in times of drought as the coal extraction will compete for water with other users.

## EXPORT ISSUES

While it is envisioned that this poor-quality coal will be used for domestic purposes to allow export of higher-value black coal, this presumes an ongoing world demand for NSW coal exports. However, the price of black coal on the export market has also dropped below the projections used in this proposal, and trends in power generation by Australia's major customers suggest that demand will continue to fall in coming years.

## SUMMARY

Coal is yesterday's technology. Whilst our economy and way of life has prospered in the past on the plentiful supplies in NSW, we now know that this has come, and continues to come, at a dramatic cost to our future economy and way of life. **It is no longer acceptable to continue to mine or burn fossil fuels.**

If the commission recommends in favour of this proposal, it will lock NSW into decades more of yesterday's expensive, damaging, and polluting technology. It will deny NSW the opportunity to embrace modern power generation technology with its significant opportunities for employment, and commit us to rising greenhouse gas emissions and falling employment in the energy sector.

I urge the Commission to **reject** this proposal outright.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Dominic Case**  
**East Balmain**  
**7<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

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## **Sally Chapman, of Wauchope NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

Dear Planning Review Board, Premier O'Farrell,

I submit my strong objection to the Cobbora coal mine.

This project threatens water security for the Mudgee Area, including ground and surface water impacts as well as requiring the clearing of nearly 2 000 ha of woodlands that are home to a variety of endangered and threatened animal and plant species.

At the cost of a massive \$3.4 BILLION to be paid by NSW taxpayers!, and upon completion to be operated at a LOSS, this project is a direct subsidy to NSW power generators. Clearly such a huge coimmittment of public funds would be more effectively invested in renewable power generation, as clearly that is the direction we need for the future. We do not need to expand rent-seeking 'industrial revolution era' technologies. This development should NOT proceed.

Sally Chapman  
PO Box 230  
Wauchope NSW 2446

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## **Susanna Cheng, of NORTH SYDNEY NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I do not support the development of the proposed coal mine in Cobbora. My concerns are twofold, being:

(1) the destruction of almost 2,000 hectares of wildlife habitat and loss of biodiversity, and

(2) the opportunity cost of spending taxpayer's money to further entrench the use of fossil fuels, at the expense of developing the renewable energy industry.

Thank you for your attention.

Susanna Cheng  
sms\_cheng@yahoo.com.au  
102/9 William Street  
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060



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## **John Clarke, of 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

To whom it may concern

I am a resident of the Mid Western Region of NSW. It is my understanding that this proposed coal project will have considerable impact on the water storage capacity of our area as well as major disturbance to flora and fauna on the site where the coal project is to be located.

I am alarmed that this project is being proposed when our region has limited water storage capacity and a project of this size will have a major impact.

I oppose this project and ask you to consider my commentary.

Thank you  
John Clarke

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## **Ross Cochrane, of Woy Woy NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

I strongly object to the Cobbora Coal Mine from going ahead. Why are we as NSW taxpayers subsidizing this coal mine when at the same time the NSW government is scrapping any sort of support for the Renewable Energy Industry. This mine will set Australia back years in our fight to defeat global warming and makes it harder to transition from dirty coal to clean renewable energy. So on behalf of my children I ask you NOT to approve with this terrible project.

Ross Cochrane  
162 Brick Wharf Rd  
Woy Woy  
NSW 2256

5 March 2013

Dear Planning and Infrastructure NSW,

**Re: Cobbora Coal Project, Application No: 10-0001**

This document is my submission regarding the Cobbora Coal Project. I strongly oppose this project primarily because expansion of our coal industry at this time locks Australia into a pathway of unnecessary carbon emissions, climate damage and huge health impacts.

Greenhouse emissions, both deliberate and accidental, associated with coal and gas mining, represent a huge threat to human health across the planet. This threat has a lag time of decades between cause and effect, yet is already claiming lives through fire, flooding, drought and other extreme climate-related events. The travesty of unstable climate is only beginning to unfold, yet we already know that the more fossil fuel pollution, the worse it will be, and investment in rapid action to reduce emissions will save money in the long run (see Climate Commission report, "The Critical Decade"). At a time when at least one form of renewable energy (wind) is already cheaper to develop in Australia than coal or gas generated energy, Australians must ask themselves, **"Why should we accept the health risks of further fossil fuel development when there is a cheaper, healthier alternative?"** Please see Bloomberg New Energy Finance's article - <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-02-06/australia-wind-energy-cheaper-than-coal-natural-gas-bnef-says.html>. The Sydney Morning Herald also reports on the Bloomberg report - <http://www.smh.com.au/business/carbon-economy/rising-risk-prices-out-new-coalfired-plants-report-20130207-2e0s4.html>.

The subsidies and government-funded infrastructure associated with coal production ensure that Australians are forced to pay taxes for coal mining. I ask you to weigh the evidence on the impacts of climate change, anticipating that such consideration will lead to you to abandon the Cobbora coal project.

I also ask you to consider the biodiversity associated with the site of development as this alone represents good reason to abandon the proposed coal mine.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Colley  
40 Honour Ave, Lawson NSW 2783

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

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

Objection to Cobbora Coal Project Application 10-001

I live in the Mid Western Regional Council boundary and have some serious concerns re this project, some of my concerns are as below

- 1... NSW residents are not guaranteed to affordable electricity prices through this project
- 2...Prediction of water demand has increased to 4340 megalitres per year
- 3...This mine will be a cost to NSW taxpayers and has not been adequately investigated
- 4... Amt of land cleared increased, affecting fauna and flora

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## **Shalyce Corney, of KARIONG 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 resident of NSW and I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed Cobbora Coal Mine project. I am writing to object to the project for the following reasons:

Locking NSW into coal-fired electricity generation until at least 2036 is incredibly myopic and harmful to the state and the country. As a developed nation with the capacity and resources to lead the way in renewable energy generation this will hold us back economically, ecologically and socially. If you have not yet read the Beyond Zero Emissions and Stationary Energy Plan that was developed in conjunction with Melbourne University's Energy Research Institute I suggest you find yourself a copy and understand what we are capable of in the area of renewable energy and what investing it could do for the nation.

I believe 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. I've come to understand that the NSW government is contractually obliged to supply the coal at \$31/tonne for years to come (based on contracts negotiated by the ALP Government as part of the Gentrader deal) because that was the only way they could sell the coal generators. Failure to comply with this contract will result in compensation being paid from the government. As a tax payer, if any of my money is to be put towards this I'd rather see the money go to closing down the coal generators that would be dependent on the Cobbora mine and paying the compensation for the contract.

Water usage by mining operations is unjustifiable. In this world 97% of water is saltwater. Of the remaining 3% of water that is fresh, 80% of it is frozen. 20% of the world's freshwater is liquid but over 90% of that is polluted or inaccessible. So of the 0.003% of the worlds water we could actually drink and use you want to allow 4340 mega litres of it to be used for mining, which would then pollute it rendering it unusable. That doesn't make sense. If you know there are alternatives (Which there are!) why would you waste that water? Not to mention the flow on effects of using and polluting that water. Here I am with my watersave shower head and my little shower timer

trying to conserve water and you are planning on polluting mega litres of it.

There is an endless list of reasons why this project should not go ahead. Listen to reason and scrap this project. I also suggest you pick up a copy of Buckminster Fuller's 'Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth' and 'Cradle to Cradle' by McDonough and Braungart to understand that our resources will run out if we keep using them faster than nature can replenish them.

Yours Sincerely,

Shalyce Corney

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## Sean Corrigan, of Trinity Beach QLD, made the following submission on the project:

### Cobbora Coal Project

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#### Objects to this project

Objection - to The Cobbora Coal Mine - Submission

Sean Corrigan  
2/9 Lae Street  
Trinity Beach  
QLD 4879

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I strongly Object to the Cobbora Mine going ahead due to the following reasons:

We must protect and preserve the remaining wilderness, biodiversity and natural systems left for their balance, the creature and flora living there and the landscape itself. Also for aboriginal cultural reasons and historic value.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The clearing of 1,959ha 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.

I urge the Government to please NOT ALLOW this mine to proceed and thus place a high protection order of natural landscape to be fully and totally protected from mining, exploration, development, damming, and commercial developments.

Yours sincerely,

Sean Corrigan

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## **Jenny Cottle, of Oyster Bay NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

Dear Minister,

The Cobbora coal mine, proposed for east of Dubbo, would 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, if built, would cost taxpayers more than \$3 billion, providing only 300 jobs - surely a similar investment in renewable energy could provide many more jobs.

This mine, if built, would destroy nearly two thousand hectares of wildlife habitat, and pump over 29 million tonnes of CO2 into the atmosphere every year. Surely this summer should have been a large enough warning to heed about the effects of climate change, for which CO2 is a major contributing factor.

This mine, if built, would provide half-priced coal to our state's polluting power stations for more than 20 years. Why as tax payers do we need to subsidise pollution?

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 mine proposal is environmentally destructive and fiscally irresponsible. I believe that this \$3 billion of taxpayers dollars be spent on developing and providing renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Jenny Cottle

Riverview Rd

Oyster Bay 2225

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## **Catherine WC Davis, of Bellingen NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

Re: Cobbora Coal Mine project, Appl No 10-0001

I am strongly opposed to the approval of the above application, based on:

- The enormous cost to the State
- The irreversible loss of a significant area of wildlife habitat involved

I believe that we will see progressive decline in use of coal both here and overseas in the next decade, and it seems to be reckless to proceed in the light of these considerations,

Yours sincerely,

Catherine WC Davis

12 Watson Street

Bellingen NSW 2454

02 66559118

cwc.davis@bigpond.com

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

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

We should not be opening any coal mines at all. All fossil fuel production must be stopped immediately. The atmosphere cannot take any more Carbon Dioxide. We are already feeling the effects of too much CO2 in the atmosphere with all the extreme weather we are experiencing in the world. It is completely irresponsible for the NSW State Government to be opening more coal mines which is against the wishes and safety of the people. I feel completely let down by the political party in NSW. I will hold you responsible for the death and destruction this will cause.

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## **Gillian Devine, of Burwood VIC, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

Dear Premier and Minister

I strongly object to the proposed Cobbora Coal Mine. If built it will result in serious environmental impacts including destruction of more than 1850 hectares of woodlands, loss of agricultural land, damage to groundwater resources and have a detrimental effect on fauna and flora.

Please abandon this costly, polluting and destructive proposal.

Yours faithfully

George Dionyssopoulos  
6 Grace Avenue  
Frenchs Forest  
NSW 2086  
04 March 2013

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

Dear Brad Hazzard

I am a resident of Australia and I find it horrific that this Coborra Coal mine is still being considered. Why are we paying a Carbon tax, which is supposed to cut down on pollutants when this Coborra project is still being considered??  
There are So many negatives about this mine, where do I start.

For the sake of our future and that of our Ozzie kids, pls put a total stop to this now and for ever.

Thanks  
George Dionyssopoulos and extended family and friends.

# Objection to the Cobbora Coal Mine

Andrew & Lyn Eccleston  
223 Sandy Road  
Kootingal NSW 2352

6<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Major Planning Assessments  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney 2001  
Email : [plan\\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

We are residents of Kootingal NSW, near Tamworth, however Andrew grew up in the Mudgee district and has a deep interest in the area.

We object strongly to any further coal mining anywhere in Australia, due to its adverse effects on the atmosphere, and thereby the health and wellbeing of the human race as a whole, and welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed Cobbora Coal Mine project.

According to our information, the mine will cost the NSW taxpayer approx \$3.4 billion, providing half-priced, poor quality, high ash coal to our state's polluting power stations for more than 20 years and will be run at a loss. If we were talking about small business – this would be unconscionable. It is a direct subsidy to power generators in NSW! Furthermore, the health impacts of using poor quality coal have not been assessed.

Surely the long-term benefits of renewable energy sources far outweigh continued coal-fired electricity which is having a direct impact on global warming – the effects of which we have seen quite recently.

***We would prefer that our Taxpayer's Dollars were 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 and Large-eared Pied Bat.

As a former WIRES Carer, Lyn particularly, cannot condone anything which could be so devastating to the environment. The ecological footprint of the mine is far too high and cannot be adequately offset. The PPR does not identify a final offset package because this is not achievable.

We have been advised that the mine will need to use up to 4,340 ML (million litres) of water per year from surface water and groundwater interception. However, 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. For this reason we submit that 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, particularly in times of drought, as is common in this area.

Government will soon be looking at the cost of augmentation of that dam to cope with the demand! More cost to Taxpayers and senseless waste of our precious water supplies.

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.

Social disruption to the towns and properties along the coal chain will be impacted by additional noise and dust from increased coal train movements:

1. Increased dust emissions. The air quality model needs to be redone using all available meteorological information, using the increased height (+20m) of over burden emplacements.
2. The proposal to implement the draft '*Rail Infrastructure Noise Policy*' will disadvantage local residents affected by increased noise from the proposed rail loop.
3. The issue of train length on the Ulan line has not been addressed as identified in the ARTC 2012 – 2020 Rail Corridor Capacity Strategy. Many level rail crossings in the area would be affected.

Demand for coal-fired power has dropped significantly since this project was first proposed, as part of the Keneally government's electricity privatisation deal.

Justification for the mine is based on incorrect projections of demand for coal-fired electricity over the next 10 years. These projections were based on contracts negotiated by the ALP Govt as part of the Gentrader deal. These could be filled through other arrangements.

The project **cannot** guarantee a '*reliable, secure and economically stable domestic coal supply (to) NSW generators*' **nor** can it guarantee '*affordable electricity in NSW*'... something every household in NSW would be very grateful for.

Yet it will lock NSW into coal-fired electricity generation until at least 2036! **This is ludicrous! Another 23 years of smog is unforgiveable when we should be spending this money on developing solar, wind, wave and other renewable energy sources!**

Yours sincerely,

*Andrew & Lyn Eccleston*

**ANDREW & LYN ECCLESTON**

CC:

Premier Barry O'Farrell: [office@premier.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@premier.nsw.gov.au)

Planning Minister Brad Hazzard: [office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au)

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## **Ian Edwards, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

To whom it may concern

The gas most responsible for the greenhouse effect which causes global warming is carbon dioxide. The burning of coal results in the production of carbon dioxide and should therefore be discouraged. Coal should be left in the ground where it is doing no harm. It therefore follows that for the sake of life on this planet the mining of coal such as by the Cobbora Holding Company should not be allowed. There are nonpolluting renewable sources of energy which could and should be used for the generation of electricity.

Yours faithfully

Ian Edwards

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## **Marg Edwards, of EAST MAITLAND 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 10-001

#### **SUBMISSION**

I object to the above Project Report as a resident of East Maitland and the Hunter Valley.

This project does not justify the increased demand for water for mining operations from the previous prediction of 3,700 ML per year up to 4,340 ML per year. In addition to this the increased pump rate from the Cudgegong River and access to higher natural flows has not been adequately assessed.

The health impacts of this project have not been adequately addressed with the increased height of over burden creating dust emissions. The air quality model needs to be re done using all current meteorological information.

Local residents will be subjected to the impact of additional noise from the proposed loop and no monitoring of this impact has been included.

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

The project will increase the area of destroyed woodland by 92 ha including an additional 11 ha of threatened ecological communities. This can never be replaced or rehabilitated for future generations.

Marg Edwards  
202 High Street  
EAST MAITLAND NSW 2323  
7 March 2013

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## **Richard Eggleston, of NSW Greens, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

To whom it may concern,

The points below outline my objection to the proposed Cobbora Coal Mine

##### **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 possible and affordable. Over \$11 billion worth of investment in wind energy alone is in the pipeline, 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, this project will destroy renewable energy investment opportunities that would attract new capital and jobs into the state. Well-to-wheel, renewable energy provides more job opportunities than non-renewable energy. Now is the time to drop the 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.

In addition, many developed nations such as Germany are making significant inroads onto the renewable market, with up to 20% of their base load coming from solar power alone.

##### **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. 37% of Australia's carbon footprint comes from coal combustion alone.

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.

- \* The increased influx of highly paid mine workers will cause development issues in surrounding communities, driving up land/house prices, creating a 2-speed economy.

- \* Coal mining has been shown to be a dangerous industry with many fatal accidents globally that destroy local communities and cause the mine to be permanently non-functioning.

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## **Daniel Endicott, of Islington 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

I strongly object to this mine.

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

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

Daniel Endicott

106 Robert St, Islington, 49616582

Co-ordinator of BikeLoveCorral.blogspot.com

Community volunteers for a Safe, Non-discriminatory, Happy, Healthy, Sustainable active transport network for cyclists and 3 wheeled mobility electric/assist devices. (and not killing people with cancerous car exhaust fumes)

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## **Graeme Fisher, of East Killara NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

Major planning assessments

Dept. planning and Infrastructure

Dear Sir /Madam,

Having just read the reason for the proposal of the Cobbora coal mine in its own statement, I am gravely concerned the state government would even be considering this proposal.

It clearly states the reason to build the mine is to provide coal to electricity generators at below market value to keep electricity prices low.

It suggests there is ample coal to provide the generators but not at a price that keeps the generators viable.

Surely this is totally contrary to all free enterprise ideals.

This will cost taxpayers huge sums and coming from a premier who has stated that electricity generation should not cost the taxpayer a single cent.

It is not only hypocritical it is deceitful, and does not allow a level playing field for any other investment in this state.

I sincerely hope you will not proceed with this project as it is totally contrary to liberal party ideals.

Regards

Graeme Fisher

0418 218 583



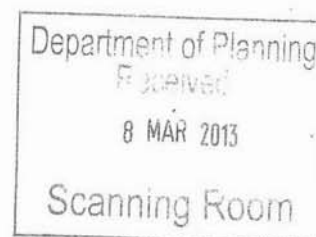


PCU042331

Laura Fisher  
5/84 Melody street  
Coogee, NSW

4/3/2013

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



Dear Sir/Madam,

As a NSW resident I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed Cobbora Coal Project. I regard this project as highly regressive policy that is not justifiable due to its environmental impact, its excessive water usage and its cost to the NSW taxpayer. This project involves subsidizing coal-fired power production at a loss, when it is clear that consumers' demand for clean energy is higher than ever before, and furthermore that clean energy now competes very strongly with fossil-fuel based energy on price. The government is likely to alienate many constituents if it proceeds with the project, when it should be seeking to be inventive and forward-thinking in the highly politicized area of energy policy.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Laura Fisher

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## **Margaret Fisher, of Killara NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

Having read the proposal for the Cobbora coal mine, I am totally opposed to its approval both on environmental and free enterprise ideals.

It is totally irresponsible to be building new coal mines designed to provide coal for the next 20 years.

With our extreme weather events increasing dramatically and the cost for clean-up and rehabilitation soaring, we cannot have a government gambling on the 500-1 chance that this is not human induced global warming.

There are also the negative health impacts of coal mining, and on a personal and economic level this is unacceptable. (It is taxpayer money paying for health also)

The land and water degradation problems with coal mining cannot be overstated.

In the projects own statement its whole reason for being is to supply coal, at well under market value, to electricity generators to continue to provide cheap electricity for NSW.

Surely this is against every edict of free enterprise. This is not new technology that needs some government support to encourage new investment in the state. This is dinosaur technology attracting taxpayer funding to keep all new technology at bay.

From a premier who said that new electricity generation should not cost the taxpayer a single cent this is hypocritical and deceitful.

If coal generators cannot survive with the market value of coal they should be closed down and the taxpayers money put into renewables where the fuel costs will not keep escalating. (there is plenty of coal available at market price)

It makes for a completely uneven playing field for investment in this state.

Jobs in the area could be provided by building a concentrated solar thermal plant that would provide baseload power.

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## **Peggy Fisher, of Killara NSW, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Cobbora Coal Project**

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

04/03/2013

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am opposed to the proposed Cobbora coal mine.  
The proposal is based on out-dated data.

It will be subsidised by tax payers, and as a taxpayer would much prefer my money go into subsidising renewable energy, not not coal mines to subsidise outdated coalfired power stations.

As well as the climate issues with coal, there are also the local environmental issues of clearing local woodland and overusing local water resources; and the health issues for the local population, that arise from coal mining.

This is no longer necessary as the demand for coalfired power is on the decline. It was proposed by the Labour government to try to help rush through the sale of power stations. I would hope the present government would find much better, more efficient ways to spend our money

Yours sincerely

Peggy Fisher

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## John Fuller, of Concord NSW, made the following submission on the project:

### Cobbora Coal Project

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#### Objects to this project

Dear Sir

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

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

This is a totally unacceptable position to place the people of NSW in and I therefore ask that you disallow the opening of this mine.

Regards

John Fuller

3 Shackel Ave, Concord, NSW