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Helen Gardner, of Ryde NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I strongly oppose the Cobbora Plan.

This environmentally destructive and financially flawed plan to mine the land west of Dubbo would harm native woodland, agricultural land and groundwater.

Please invest in cleaner less environmentally destructive energy production.

Helen Gardner
2/18 Willow Crescent
RYDE

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GERALDINE GARVAN, of n.s.w. NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Interference within 20 kms of natural watercourses either above or below ground is a disaster waiting to happen and threatens the environment in relation to water and wildlife.

Development and population growth need to be carefully planned in Australia to safeguard the productivity, livability and health of the country. Not to mention to protect the health of the citizens in relation to air quality, water quality and spiritual equilibrium.

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Rosemary and Terry Gatfield, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Were the Cobbora coal mine to be built it would cost taxpayers more than \$3 billion. Not only that, it would destroy nearly two thousand hectares of wildlife habitat while servicing the state with half-priced coal: this would further support polluting power stations for over 20 years. What rational government could want that? What type of people would we be to allow that!

Estimates for electricity over the next 10 years have proved to be incorrect as demand for this power has dropped significantly since the project was first proposed. Sink your money into clean energy sources and follow citizens' and the Chinese lead in switching to solar panels for private citizens and seek new industry power alternatives.

Rosemary and Terry Gatfield,

Australian citizens against Government madness; and pro-wildlife and environmental safety

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Linda Gill, of Wootton NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Minister Hazzard,

I am completely opposed to the the NSW Governments proposal to develop a state-owned coal mine that will cost taxpayers more than \$3 billion, destroy nearly two thousand hectares of wildlife habitat, and provide half-priced coal to our state's polluting power stations for more than 20 years.

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

The Cobbora mine proposal is environmentally destructive and fiscally irresponsible. I would prefer they spend \$3 billion of taxpayers dollars on renewable energy like solar or wind, not outmoded, carbon emitting, climate changing coal mines!.

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

In this day and age when biodiversity has never been more at threat and extreme climatic events ravage our country, for the government to propose this, is a clear sign the government have abrogated their duty of care to the people and environment of NSW.

Moreover the government could be seen to be aiding and abetting the coal companies to perpetrate ecocide.

I urge the state government to abandon this costly, polluting and destructive proposal.

Yours sincerely

Linda Gill

--

Cr Linda Gill
155 Squires Rd
Wootton. NSW. 2423

Home.49977263
Mob. 0401797756

Silence=Consent. N.Chomsky

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Greg Gill, of Wootton NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Minister

I strongly object to the proposal to develop this environmentally destructive coal mine.

To give approval to this unnecessary mine would be short-sighted and totally irresponsible. The estimated 3 billion dollars of tax payers money which would be spent on this project, will only perpetuate the polluting fossil fuel industry, and should be diverted to developing clean renewable energy sources, which will inevitably have to be done.

Please show some initiative and leadership and abandon this short-sighted, reckless proposal.

Yours sincerely

Greg Gill

--

Greg Gill

155 Squires Rd.

Wootton 2423

NSW

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Birgit Graefner, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Madam/Sir,

How many more record breaking weather events does it take before you realize that we CANNOT continue to dig up coal to have it burned. Whether it is burned here or in China or in India - that doesn't matter. IT IS ALWAYS ON OUR OWN PLANET.

It may not be in your own backyard. But - PLEASE -open your eyes to see the big, the global picture !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

SOME COMPANIES WANT TO MAKE A PROFIT - AT OUR EXPENSE.

And I didn't even start to mention the negative environmental impacts for NSW or the health problems which are going to be caused by tones and tones of fine black coal dust. We only have to look at Newcastle and the latest report of its air pollution.

Or all the other major downsides of coal mining.

JUST STOP IT.

IT IS AN APPALLING PROPOSAL.

Everybody will be better off without it in the long run.

And that is what counts - THE LONG RUN = OUR FUTURE.

Regards

Birgit Graefner

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David Greentree, of Woy Woy NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I strongly object to this mine because of the damage that it will cause to the environment by the release of millions of tonnes of CO₂, the use of thousands of megalitres of water and the destruction of hundreds of hectares of land. How can we contemplate such a taxpayer funded project when we need to move away from coal towards renewable energy.

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audrey hadley, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

we are over the coal use on the planet because it is dirty and destructive...
we are willing to work towards renewable energy targets and love the carbon tax.
th Cobbora coal mine will be responsible for pumping over 29 million tones of CO2 into the atmosphere AND
THEREFORE REDUCING THE ABILITY OF OUR DEVELOPMENT THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR.
GET A BLOODY GRIP AND STOP GIVING THE GO AHEAD TO DEALS
THAT YOU THINK WILL HELP US BALANCE THE BUDGET AND IN THE LONG TERM WILL COST US MORE THAN TRANSFERING TO A CARBON FREE RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY..
ITS TIME TO CHANGE OVER BE BRAVE DOIT NOW...
audrey hadley from Terrigal....

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Bruce Hancock, of Brushgrove NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

\$3 billion of taxpayers dollars on a polluting coal mine?

Not if I have any say in it (and remember, I vote)!

I could think of a dozen better ways of spending my money.

Try:

A) Improving the hospital system

B) Fix the Pacific Highway

C) Support the Gonski educational reforms

D) Help revitalise the Murrey/Darling River basin

E) Build a very fast train system and get the trucks off our roads for starters.

But not on a bl..dy dirty coal mine, nor a toll road (destined to go bankrupt) in Sydney.

Bruce Hancock
Brushgrove

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Roger Hargraves, of Bathurst NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I wish to express my strong objection to this proposed development, because it will seriously damage nearly 2000 hectares of agricultural land, woodland, wildlife habitat and groundwater resources, at the cost of about \$3 billion of taxpayer's money, to provide cheap coal for power stations whose operation pollutes, and whose activity levels are already falling below projections.

I would prefer to see that money spent directly and justifiably on improving the State's ailing health services, rather than increasing the coal miners' profits while further ruining our State's environment,

Yours Faithfully,

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John Hayes, of Cremorne NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

To the responsible person(s) at Planning New South Wales .

Please be advised that I take exception to the proposed Cobbora coal mine . With 60 years of family experience in both coal mining and agriculture I have seen most plainly that we have disregarded nature , which of course includes ourselves , through a preoccupation of growth for wealth with little regard of health .

The benefit to ourselves is the application of funding to clean and renewable energy , food and water .

Not to the propagation of old bad habits which pollute and destroy our fragile environment .

Our wealth is in our health - not destructive dollars .

History shows us that humans have the ability to cause gross destruction - no matter the guise .

It must surely be time to apply different criteria to not only our wellness but more so our survival .

Please consider carefully not just ourselves but our children and their children as well as all other

life forms on which we rely . There are other options .

John Hayes
13/21 Harrison St.
Cremorne .2090
0418 580299

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Joanne Herbert, of Black Hill NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Please stop the Cobbora coal project.

I live in the Hunter valley and have seen the complete devastation that mining has on the landscape.

Has someone set a deadline for the end of digging up coal and destroying our precious land because there are so many new mine opening every where.

It seems like there is a race to see who can get as much out of the ground as possible before ??

The constant expansion of mining is just another nail in the coffin for our civilisation . And no I am not dramatising this . Think long and hard .

When will enough be enough.

Yours so very sincerely

Joanne Herbert

30 Forsythe pd

Black Hill

NSW 2322

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Davy Hilton, of Earlwood NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

To Whom it may concern,

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.

Climate change is happening NOW. We have a responsibility to future generations to wind down our dependance on coal. Clean technology has shown us the way to a sustainable future. We need the Earth. The Earth does not need us. Please see sense and refuse

this destructive development.

Yours Sincerely,

David Hilton

10 Hocking Ave,
Earlwood. 2206.

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Siobhan Holmes, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir,

I wish to register my strong opposition to the construction of this coal mine.

There are so many reasons why it should NOT be built, but for me the prime one is that you are proposing to spend Three Billion dollars (and no doubt the cost will go up dramatically should it ever be built) of tax payers money, on a scheme that can cause untold harm not only to Australians, but to the atmosphere of the world.

Coal is such a polluting source of energy, I firmly believe that there will come a time (well within the life of these coal fired power stations) that coal will be banned, as the world becomes more aware of the devastation of a changing climate.

Protecting our environment, our groundwater, our agricultural land, are all critically important (kindly note that you can't eat coal). However stopping pollution of the atmosphere has even more critical importance.

We urgently need you to spend that three billion dollars on construction of sustainable energy systems, and on research and development to make such systems even more efficient. Look at the huge improvement in efficiency that solar has attained in the last few years.

WE DO NOT WANT MORE COAL MINES AND MORE COAL FIRED POWER STATIONS.

Hopefully your Government will listen. If they do not, the only response for intelligent thoughtful voters is to put a different Government in power.

With kind regards,

Siobhan Holmes

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Margaret Jaffe, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Premier O'Farrell,

As Premier of N.S. W. a top priority should be the protection of the environment. Coal mines destroy environments which should be left natural for the health of

the planet, the animals and flora they support and for future generations to enjoy. Also the fuel the coal mines provide helps pollute the planet.

Please say NO! to the Cobbora coal mine.

sincerely,

Margaret Jaffe

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Fay Jones, of Cessnock NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

This proposal comes at a time when more and more NSW residents are seeking modern alternatives to fossil fuels. The sad thing is the O'Farrell gov't would prefer to spend \$3billion tax payer dollars on subsidising old ideas than spending our money on new technology, new ideas and the future through health and education. Clearing 20000 hectares of wildlife habitat to subsidise fossil fuels that further exacerbate climate change is the plan of a gov't that only listens to old ideas. I'm 72 and I believe in the future and new ideas.

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Kylie Jones, of Cessnock NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

This proposal means that the state government will use tax payer dollars to fund to the mining and then sale of coal to NSW electricity, in direct competition with renewable energy at a time of unprecedented demand for clean renewable energy .This is just a dreadful use of tax payer dollars to directly fund mining and directly fund the clearing of land. This is the decision of a government that obviously hates the natural clean environment and wants to play no part in trying to reduce the impact of climate change on it's citizens.

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Milton Judd, of COONABARABRAN NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I wish to submit my objection to the Cobbora Coal Mine / Mines for the following reasons:-

I have experiences as a qualified marine engineer with eight and a half years as a watch keeper on both motor and steamships, one of the latter burning high ash content fuel. This period of my life was followed by five and a half years as a Special Project Technical Officer for the Australian Ship Building Board. This Board was then administering the subsidy for the building of ships in Australian Shipyards.

In that position I was required to study all aspects of the technology relating to all types of vessels, ranging from \$55 million semi-submerged Offshore Oil Drilling Rigs, to seventy foot fishing vessels.

In addition to the obvious environmental effects, such as pollution of both air and water and the destruction of farmland and forest and the social and economic consequences, it is my opinion the coal is not worth mining. Its calorific value is so low and it has such a high ash content, that it is not suitable or safe for burning in modern high pressure and high temperature power station boilers.

The coal has to be mined and mixed from three different pits to obtain the low energy content of 5138 kilocalories per kilogram (kcal/kg). The ash content ranges from 25% to 45%. These figures come from the Cobbora Coal web site. The low energy of the coal makes it a very poor fuel. Also when combined with the energy expended in mining and carting from three different pits and mixing it to get this this low energy figure, it is a waste of time and money for a poor return.

The thing that concerns me most of all is the high ash content of 25% to 45%. There is no analysis of what is in this non combustible material! The ash is the inorganic impurities present in the fuel, usually consisting of sand and soil and sundry metallic oxides. If present, vanadium pentoxide is the most important. On ignition of the fuel the vanadium pentoxide in the ash is deposited on surrounding surfaces, where it has a profound effect as a corrosive agent at temperatures above 690 degrees Centigrade. These boilers have combustion temperatures much higher than this. If sodium is

present, as it often is, it combines with the vanadium pentoxide to form a compound, the melting point of which, is about 630 degrees Centigrade. This compound, when it is molten, penetrates into and destroys the natural protective film of the metals in contact with it. This leaves them prone to high temperature oxidation and wastage.

Due to the high temperatures and high evaporation rate combined with the high pressures in these power station boilers, the water tubes are mounted vertically to avoid vapour locks. This would cause failure of the tubes due to loss of heat transfer through the metal to the fluid inside. This causes local failure of the the tubes and with the high pressures can be disastrous. High sulphur content can also be a problem in ash.

The Eraring Power Station near Newcastle, recently underwent a three year \$750 million upgrade. This was to allow the use of low quality coal from the Ulan mine near Mudgee. Ulan domestic coal has an energy value of 6420 kcal / kg and an ash content of 22.5 to 25%.

After the upgrade and when bringing the number four boiler and its turbo generator up to peak load of 720 megawatts, the boiler experienced a tube or tubes failure. The resulting explosion tore a rent two metres long and one metre wide in a corner of the boiler casing. Luckily no one was in the vicinity at the time. The other three units were working well but all the units were put under strict restricted access to all personnel until the exact cause of the failure was established.

I cannot say definitely that the oxides in the low grade and high ash Ulan coal were to blame, but I have my suspicions. As far as I am aware, it is the only explosion in a modern power house boiler in NSW to date.

I am more than a little worried about Cobbora coal with an average ash content of 35.7 %. For comparision purposes, Ulan premuim steaming coal for export, has an ash content of 12.5 to 14.5 %.

Leave Cobbora rubbish coal in the ground where it belongs. I wouldn't want it in any boiler that I was responsible for. It has the potential to become a cross for the NSW public to bear.

Milton Judd,
2 Margaret St,
COONABARABRAN NSW 2357
jandmjudd@bigpond.com

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Leonie Kemp, of Hornsby NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Cobbora Coal Project - Preferred Project Report

Application No: 10-0001

Dear Sir/madam,

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

The Cobbora Coal Project will destroy 1,959 ha of woodland habitat, and will impact on endangered and vulnerable species of plants and animals such as australasian bittern, malleefowl, regent honeyeater, superb parrot, and vulnerable microbat species - southern long-eared bat, large-eared pied bat, and 100% loss of the local population of Tylophora linearis, to name a few.

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

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

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

The mine will cost the NSW taxpayer approx \$3.4 billion and will be run at a loss.

Coal is a non-renewable resource which, when burnt, adds carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, increasing the global warming effect. Taxpayers' money would be better spent subsidizing renewable energy sources to generate electricity.

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

Yours sincerely,
Leonie Kemp

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Gillian King, of Roseville NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I object strongly to the proposed Cobbora Coal Project on several grounds.

The project will destroy 2,000 hectares of wildlife habitat. Incrementally, piece by piece, natural habitats are destroyed by projects like this. I am not confident that environmental protections will be adequate to protect natural systems, including water, land, plants and animals.

The project will deliver subsidised coal to NSW coal-fired electricity generators. The coal won't be sold at full international market rates, instead NSW taxpayers will subsidise it to the tune of billions of dollars. This is just plain stupid. Why would any sensible government prolong the life of carbon emitting coal generators for even a month or two, never mind years/decades? Especially as demand for electricity is falling and will continue to fall as rooftop solar reaches socket parity and efficiency measures are adopted more widely.

The NSW government has determined that solar incentives should not cost a single dollar to either consumers or the government. I demand that the same criteria be applied to coal-fired generators so that they pay the full cost of coal for power generation.

I want government policy based on mainstream science. Mainstream science warns that carbon emissions are causing dangerous climate change. We already see the evidence for more extreme weather events in recent record-breaking Australian heatwaves and floods. It is a dereliction of duty for the NSW government to subsidise new coal mines. Instead, coal miners should pay the full cost of the damage their product is causing. A responsible government would ensure that NSW is advancing along the path to emissions-free electricity generation. The Cobbora Coal Mine is a backward step.

I understand that the NSW government is contractually obliged to supply coal cheaply to coal generators that were sold. I would much prefer that these contracts be reconsidered. It would be better if taxpayer money is spent helping to phase out the coal generators, and to support low-emissions alternatives.

Kind regards
Gillian

--

Gillian King
Ph. 0412 928 302

119 Shirley Road
Roseville, NSW 2069

Ian King
P.O. Box 381
Helensburgh, NSW, 2508

Monday, March 04, 2013

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on and **object to** the proposed Cobbora coal project east of Dubbo NSW.

I have concerns about yet another coal mine proposal that is being pushed for approval despite there being issues that have not been properly attended to.

- I. There is no effective argument for continuing with coal-fired electricity when compared to the long-term benefits of investing in renewable energy sources.
- II. There is no justification for the clearing of 1,959ha of woodland habitat especially when the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in California only requires 1416ha to produce power for 140 000 homes.
- III. The Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in California cost just \$2.2 billion and based on approx \$3.4 billion for the Cobbora coal project it would save NSW taxpayers \$1.2 billion and the earth a whole lot of carbon dioxide.
- IV. The preferred project report does not identify a final offset package for the ecological footprint of the mine as its size is too great and cannot be adequately offset.
- V. There has been no justification provided for the increase to 4,340 ML per year in water demand for the mining operations from the previous prediction of 3,700 ML per year.
- VI. There has been no adequate assessment of the increased pump rate and access to higher natural flows from the Cudgegong River.

Yours sincerely,



Ian S. King

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Rosemary Kingsford, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

As a scientist I am appalled that my state government would be investing billions of dollars to coal mining. This money should be invested into new clean technologies, which would provide new jobs to my fellow country men and women. The proposed site would destroy thousands of hectares which is a wildlife habitat to many native species.

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

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Kingsford

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

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear sir/madam, please take note of my strongest possible objection to the Cobbora coal mine proposal which I define as inappropriate for a number of reasons.

Firstly the environmental destruction which is inevitable from such projects. Since European colonisation of this land, far too much forest has been irreversibly destroyed. Forests are an invaluable and irreplaceable carbon sink and their preservation is a vital part of the necessary strategy to deal with climate change, a reality which all but the most narrow-minded self-interested bigots now accept.

Secondly, that it is a coal project, which is obviously very much a part of the causation of climate change. Any projects in this industry are absolutely inappropriate.

Thirdly it is high time we acknowledged the limitations inherent in unbridled corporate capitalism and stopped pandering to this belief system which simply does not reasonably share the earth's resources among all the people contributing their labour to the generation of wealth. It is shamefully concentrating wealth and power into the hands of a greedy and arrogant minority at the expense of all other beings, human and others. Do not think you should defend capitalism as the most efficient system of economic management on my account. It is merely the most aggressive, and will destroy us all. Like a petulant child it needs clear limits.

Fourthly it is not as if there are not many other projects which should receive taxpayer support and here I draw your attention to those of the truly sustainable renewable energy industry which are already economically viable and offer our only hope to provide future generations with a liveable planet. The mean-spirited detractors of the renewable industry who use economic models to pronounce the industry as unworthy of investment are not speaking with the common good in mind but are merely clinging to their own lifestyles of excess, unable to face reality. They are not leaders, they are parasites. Renewable energy is economically viable already. It merely needs a level playing field, where currently fossil fuels are heavily favoured.

Yours emphatically and sincerely

Peter Kuestler M.B.B.S.

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Petra Liverani, of Newtown NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

1. The demands of climate change mean that coal production must stop as soon as possible.
2. Renewables are fast becoming as economic as fossil fuels.
3. NSW is blessed with plenty of sun and wind and we need to move into the 21st century and develop these energy sources not lag back in the fossil fuel age.

Wind

\$11 billion worth of investment in wind energy alone is ready to go, waiting to get the green light from the NSW government.

Concentrated Solar Thermal Power plus Molten Salt Storage (CSP+)

Other much less insulated countries than ours are forging ahead with Concentrated Solar Thermal Power (CSP) which can provide 24/7 energy when combined with molten salt storage. Australia has precisely 2MW of CSP in operation, used as a booster for the Liddell Coal-Fired Power Station. It has another 44MW CSP plant in the pipeline at Kogan but this is also only a booster for the coal-fired power station. It has none in construction. This is a disgrace. The US, Spain, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Chile and many other countries either already have quite a lot of CSP in operation, and/or are constructing it or planning it. See

http://www.nrel.gov/csp/solarpaces/by_country.cfm (I do not believe the Lake Cargelligo plant shown in this website is actually operational and this website is not quite up to date. www.csptoday.com shows more projects, however, you need to pay for access to the data.

According to the Beyond Zero Emissions Stationary Energy Plan (downloadable from <http://beyondzeroemissions.org/>) four large solar regions in NSW in the vicinities of Moree, Bourke, Broken Hill and Dubbo could provide a significant proportion (about 15,000 MW) of our energy requirements.

4. The mine will degrade the environment, both land and air.
5. It will use a large amount of water, threaten the wine industry.

Why are we aiming to be laggards instead of leaders when we have all the benefits any leader could have?

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Robert Lollbach, of Liberty Grove NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I strongly object to the development of the Cobbora Coal mine on the following grounds:

it is an old plan based on electricity consumption which has been decreasing due multiple reasons including efficiency
the ever-increasing number of home solar systems means electricity usage will continue to go down
the Cobbora mine will mean the destruction of some 2000ha of woodland near Dubbo, and area that has limited woodland
the cost of \$3b is coming out of taxpayers funds which could be put to more effective use on alternative clean energy generation systems
digging coal out of that mine for the next 30 yrs will continue to add to the already excessive concentrations of CO2 in our atmosphere, directly from NSW power stations
We should be investing in solar thermal out at Dubbo and further west with ever increasing hours of sunshine and rising temperatures. Such technology is of the future whereas coal mining for energy goes back to early industrial times in England; an old, dirty, heavily polluting technology.

Adequate remediation of the planned site has not been factored in and with the number of coal mines becoming defunct over the coming decades will never be properly implemented

Yours sincerely

Robert Lollbach
17/9 Thorpe Ave
Liberty Grove NSW 2138
0419033704

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Alison Lyssa, of Bondi Junction NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Please do not build the Cobbora coal mine

We have to work out a different way of living because it is not rational to burn so much coal. Coal is very polluting of the environment and of the earth's climate.

Make the shift to reducing electricity use.

Demand for coal fired electricity is falling.

Do not destroy habitat for wildlife.

Spend the money on renewable energy and conservation projects to reduce wastage of electricity.

Yours sincerely

Alison Lyssa
3/125 Old South Head Road
Bondi Junction NSW 2022
Ph: 02 9389 2084
Email: alison.lyssa@sustainabletransport.com.au

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Margaret Mangelsdorf, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Mr. Hazzard,

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

It's not the sort of world I want to leave to my grandchildren. Please oppose this planned mine.

Margaret Mangelsdorf
voter

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Jacqueline Marks, of Drummoyne NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I write to object to the proposal for Cobbora Coal Project. This mine, if built, will cost taxpayers more than \$3billion. As well as destroying nearly two thousand hectares of wildlife habitat it will provide half-priced coal to our state's polluting power stations, ensuring they continue to pollute for more than 20 years.

The rational for the mine is based on questionable projections of demand for coal-fired electricity over the next 10 years. Demand for coal-fired power has fallen considerably since this project was first put forward as part of the previous government's electricity privatisation deal.

There is no need for the Cobbora Coal Project - it offers no benefits, but will be expensive and destructive. Please reconsider with the costs in mind.

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Raymond N. Mathiesen, of Armidale NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Armidale. I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed project.

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

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

Background:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The clearing of 1,959ha 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 Cudgong 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.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond Mathiesen

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Ian McAdam, of Mudgee NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I wish to object to this project from proceeding.

The reasons I give are as follows:

1. Water availability. The Cudgegong river doesn't have enough continuous flow to meet the demands of the Cobbora Project. Looking back through the past 10 years of historical data on releases from Windamere Dam, which is above the proposed extraction point, much of the time the Windamere Dam releases are only about 20ML per day. 20ML per day is only 7300ML per year. Mudgee's requirements alone are 3000ML per year. This only left 4300ML for Gulgong township, irrigation requirements and environmental flows. I have been living near the Cudgegong most of my life, and there are a lot of times where the river barely flows. Windamere Dam hasn't been full in the last 20 years. 2010 was one of the 6 wettest years in 111 years of rainfall recording in Mudgee, and in that year Windamere's level only increased by about 25%. Burrendong Dam on the other hand had major overflows in 2010, causing flooding in Dubbo and other towns along its path.
2. Economics. This project will be a tax burden on the people of NSW for years to come. The people will have to subsidise the production of cheap coal to burn in the state's power stations, which will prevent the investment in renewable energy in NSW. This project was only dreamed up by the former NSW government so that they could sell the power stations. It will never be profitable unless the mine extracts a much larger quantity of coal and exports it.
3. Climate Change. Burning coal is THE major cause of climate change. The NSW government should be investing in renewable energy, not an additional coal mine for itself. Plans for this mine to extract 20MT of ore, with 12MT of coal, will contribute 40 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year into the atmosphere for the next 20 years. This amount doesn't include the carbon dioxide generated in extracting the coal. Our children will look on this project as an absolutely bazaar folly by the NSW government, especially as the government will have to pay out increasing large sums of money to combat climate change. This mine will only prolong the burning of coal in the power stations of NSW.
4. Coal quality. The quality of coal in the Cobbora mine site is extremely poor. Coal has been rejected at some of the power station in NSW because of poor quality. How are they going to increase the quality of this coal enough for it to be burnt in the power stations?
5. Transport. How is the coal going to get to the power stations? The Ulan rail line is already fully committed with trains from Ulan, Wilpinjong and Moolarben coal mines. The rail line through Mudgee is degraded to the extent that coal trains can't access it. The

rail line through Werris creek is also fully committed.

Yours faithfully,

Ian McAdam

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Sr Marian McClelland, of Kirrawee NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I write as a concerned citizen of NSW. I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed project of the Cobbora Coal Mine in central west NSW.

You will be receiving many letters of objection, with many details as to why this project should not proceed. I shall not rehearse all those details again.

I just want to say that I am horrified to think of nearly two thousand hectares of wildlife habitat being destroyed in order to build a mine which will provide coal for more than 20 years. It is time and more than time to be winding down the coal industry. We know that coal is a highly polluting substance, and sends tons of greenhouse gases into our already struggling global atmosphere. The money invested into this project would be far better spent, I believe, if it were invested in naturally renewable energy sources.

In short, I object to this proposal going ahead, now and always.

Yours Sincerely

Sr Marian McClelland sss

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David McDougall, of Woy Woy NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I object to your approval of the Cobbora Coal Project. We need to restrict the use of coal, not open new mines. Develop renewable energy instead.

David McDougall
Villa One 166 Blackwall Rd
Woy Woy NSW 2256
Phone 0243418240

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Marg McLean, of Singleton NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Department of Planning, NSW
RE:

Cobbora Coal Project - Preferred Project Report

Application No: 10-0001

I strongly object to this proposed project. It would be a lose, lose, lose and no-win situation for not just the people of NSW.

The imperative of transition to a low carbon economy is ever more apparent. Record-breaking summer temperatures and increased frequency of extreme weather events are occurring. Increased levels of atmospheric CO2 from the burning of coal is absolutely crazy. It is way beyond the time for NO NEW COAL MINES.

The true cost of this proposed state-owned coal mine has not been adequately assessed. The cost of building to the NSW taxpayer in monetary terms is outrageous enough, particularly when renewable energy alternatives are considered; but to consider that there would be ongoing subsidy of half price coal for energy generation, for decades, has to evidence that the true cost has not been assessed.

The local health impact of burning low grade/high ash coal has also not been assessed.

I do think the impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services by destroying almost 2000 hectares of native vegetation was assessed. I think that this assessment evidences that it cannot be mitigated as no final offset strategy has been provided.

This proposal is out of sync and time. It should be rejected. Dodgy coal mine deals need to be consigned to the past.

Marg McLean

FalBrook Wildlife Refuge

PO Box 462
Singleton 2330
March 8 2013

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Wolf Messthaler , of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

dear barry and planners

The Cobbora mine proposal is environmentally destructive and fiscally irresponsible.

it will lock NSW for another 35 years plus into CO2 intensive electricity production.

the people of NSW are over 90% for the use of renewable energy and would prefer you spend the \$3 billion of taxpayers dollars

on the dedicated introduction of wind power and concentrated Solar tower technology.
please be aware that Australia will be intellectually isolated in the world,
if we don't accept the reality of climate change and don't act on it immediately.

china is introducing wind power that would supply the entire Aussie demand 3 fold:
give me any reason why australia can't do what spain can do?

dubbo and moree are perfect spots to trail a Aussie CST with storage.
please refer to BZE's Zero Carbon Australia plan

thanks
wolf

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John Mobbs , of Artarmon NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a retired member of society but care deeply at the way the NSW Government is handling the resources of the state in the production of energy.

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

I wish to object on the grounds:

Global Climate Change Risk: 99 percent of scientists believe that human released carbon is having a catastrophic effect on the delicate balance of the world's climate and to ignore this evidence in favour of corporate mis-information is to risk the future of the whole of society.

Using the precautionary principal is a common sense and anyone with a vestige of moral integrity would never agree to this program.

Renewable energy is now so close to "on a par with carbon based energy" in terms of cost, that it makes any decision involving long term investment shaky at best.

The taxpayer subsidies that the fossil industry receives should be cut and charges levied for the toxins released by burning coal, oil and gas and the answer will show that financially renewables are the sensible and moral way to proceed.

Those who suggest that we need base load power have not been looking at the data. Most of Australians live on the east coast where there are lots of hills allowing for hydro storage which can provide an easy and inexpensive battery, filling in the gaps needed by renewable energy sources.

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

My final point is that the organisation Beyond Zero Emissions have a readymade, fully costed plan for renewable, using proven technology. That is a better way forward

Do not approve this development

Yours sincerely,
John Mobbs

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Daryl Morris, of newtown NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

The mine has a very large ecological footprint, large water demand and will have major social impacts. All this is happening with NSW taxpayers money. I understand this as incredibly bad for the future generations. You are a community leader a community elder. Our children and many adults are waiting to see good decisions made when it comes to the future of native habitat survival and a sustainable social financial economy. In years gone by our elders would make sacrifices to the rivers, mountains and forests, now they are willing to sacrifice those very things we once held precious.



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

An objection to the preferred project report.

Issues. The mines response to submission on Air Quality & Meteorology Data. These issues have not been adequately addressed in the PPR.

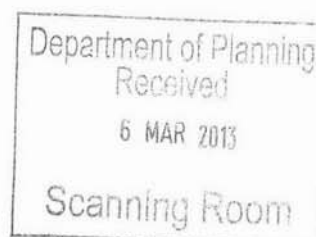
(1) In the EIS.Cobbora Coal rejected data from BOM. Station at Dunedoo P.O and BOM station at Gulgong P.O. as the measurements were only taken twice daily.

Measurements on wind direction from both Mudgee and Dubbo were considered to give an adequate picture of wind conditions and air quality on a mine site many kilometers distant.

A more favorable picture on the mines impact on air quality and dust burden were thus available for the towns of Dunedoo and Gulgong.

On re examining this issue in the PPR. Cobbora Coal now includes data from both BOM. Stations at Dunedoo P.O. and Gulgong.P.O.They now concede wind measurements show wind patterns from West & Southwest together with Northwest winds from Dunedoo which will play a considerable part on air quality issues and dust burdens for the two nearest towns i.e.Gulgong & Dunedoo.

They now consider these wind patterns show "good correlation" to their own Met. Station on the mine site. This is complete reversal of their original position.



How can their data give a respected picture of wind patterns, dust burdens and air quality issues on the two towns closest to the mine namely Gulgong & Dunedoo?

Much more work is required on air quality issues and fine particle emissions and its effect on communities'. Cobbora Coal believes that dust burdens and fine particle emissions will not affect these towns. Their research is designed to give a favorable image of mining.

2. Uncovered coal wagons passing through the town of Gulgong. Cobbora Coal believes there will be "no significant 'impact on towns along the rail corridor. They then concede that ARTC. and Railcorp may use dust monitors. Again saying one thing and meaning something else.

Meteorology data collection and dust monitoring is required in the town areas of both Gulgong and Dunedoo, independent of the mines sampling. This would give an unbiased picture of this mines effect on the local communities.

I have never donated to any political party. I am objecting to these matters out of genuine concern for the future health of local people.



Wendy Moyle

Wendy Moyle
"Glengarry" Puggoon Rd.
Gulgong 2852
Email moylewendy@gmail.com
Phone 0263741404

(ENC)

Additional Information.

1

Wind Rose Data Wind direction versus Wind speed March 1970-30 Sept.2010

9.am Total observations.Gulgong.

2

3.pm Total observations Gulgong PD.

3

Wind Rose Data Wind direction versus wind speed Jan 1965-Sept 2010

3.pm Total observations Dunedoo PD.

4

3pm Total observations July Dunedoo PD

5 Extract from...

Contributions of Fuel Combustion to Pollution by Airborne Particles in Urban and Non-Urban Environments. An ERDC Study Final Report.

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization

NSW Environment Protection Authority

Pacific Power Corp, University NSW. , Macquarie University , June 1995

Rose of Wind direction versus Wind speed in km/h (01 Mar 1970 to 30 Sep 2010)

Custom times selected, refer to attached note for details

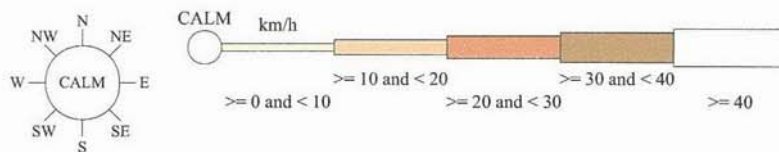
GULGONG POST OFFICE

Site No: 062013 • Opened Jan 1881 • Still Open • Latitude: -32.3634° • Longitude: 149.5329° • Elevation 475m

An asterisk (*) indicates that calm is less than 0.5%.

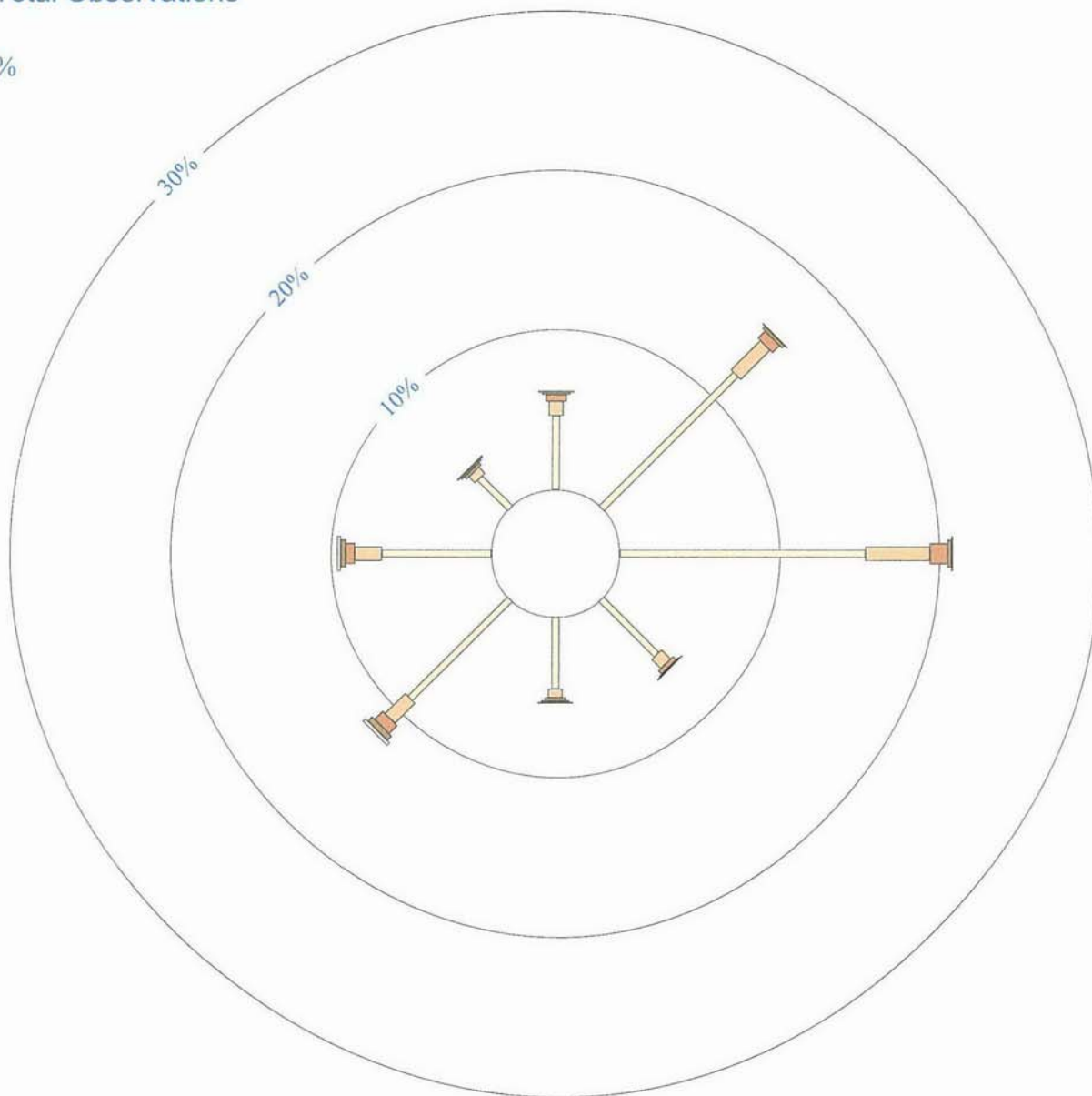
Other important info about this analysis is available in the accompanying notes.

(1)



9 am
12806 Total Observations

Calm 20%



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

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We have taken all due care but cannot provide any warranty nor accept any liability for this information.

Rose of Wind direction versus Wind speed in km/h (01 Mar 1970 to 30 Sep 2010)

Custom times selected, refer to attached note for details

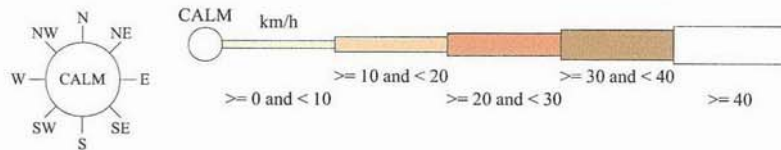
GULGONG POST OFFICE

Site No: 062013 • Opened Jan 1881 • Still Open • Latitude: -32.3634° • Longitude: 149.5329° • Elevation 475m

An asterisk (*) indicates that calm is less than 0.5%.

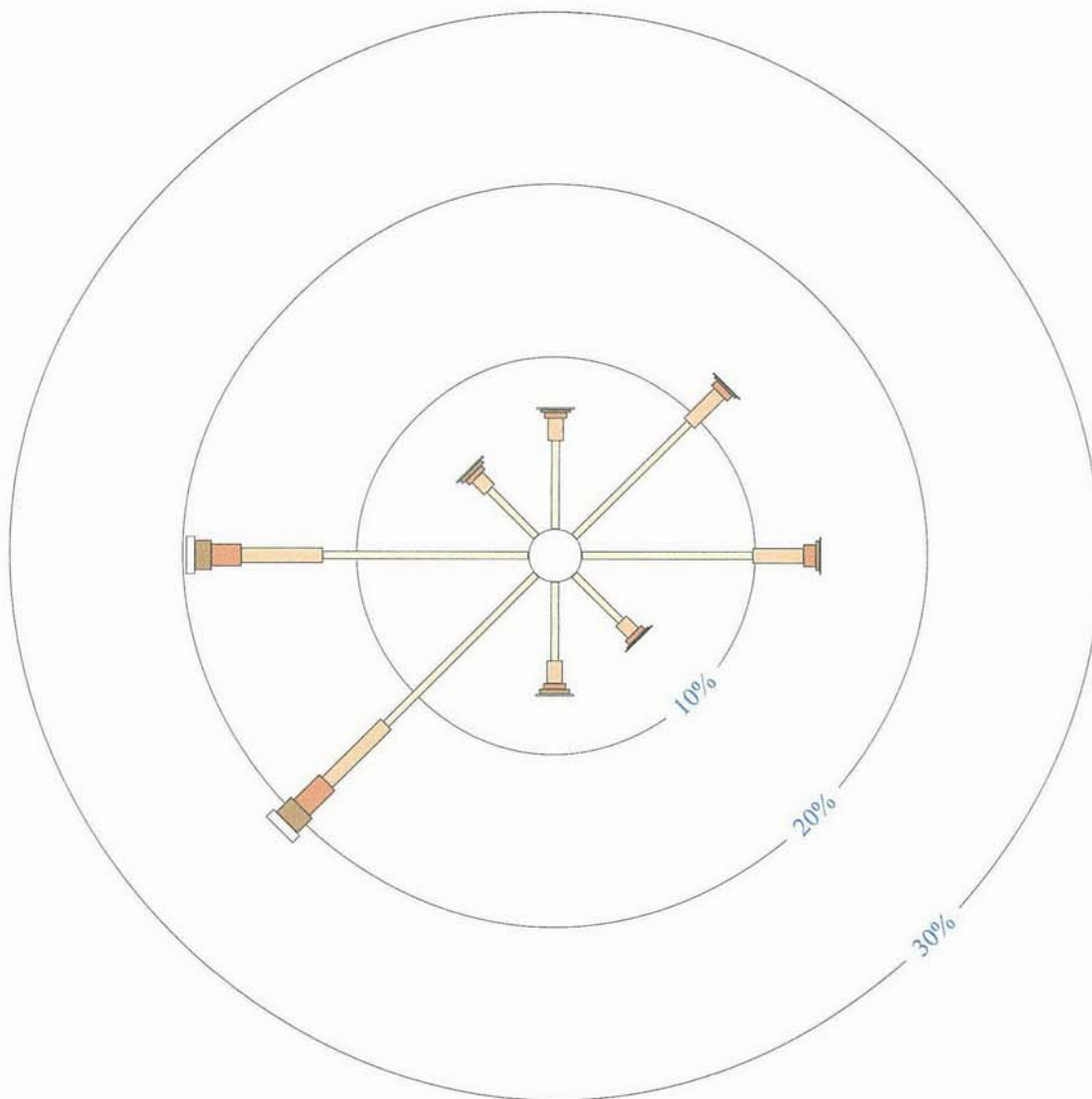
Other important info about this analysis is available in the accompanying notes.

(2)



3 pm
12343 Total Observations

Calm 8%



Rose of Wind direction versus Wind speed in km/h (02 Jan 1965 to 30 Sep 2010)

Custom times selected, refer to attached note for details

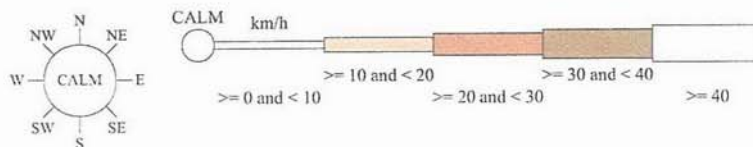
DUNEDOO POST OFFICE

Site No: 064009 • Opened Jan 1912 • Still Open • Latitude: -32.0159° • Longitude: 149.3964° • Elevation 388m

An asterisk (*) indicates that calm is less than 0.5%.

Other important info about this analysis is available in the accompanying notes.

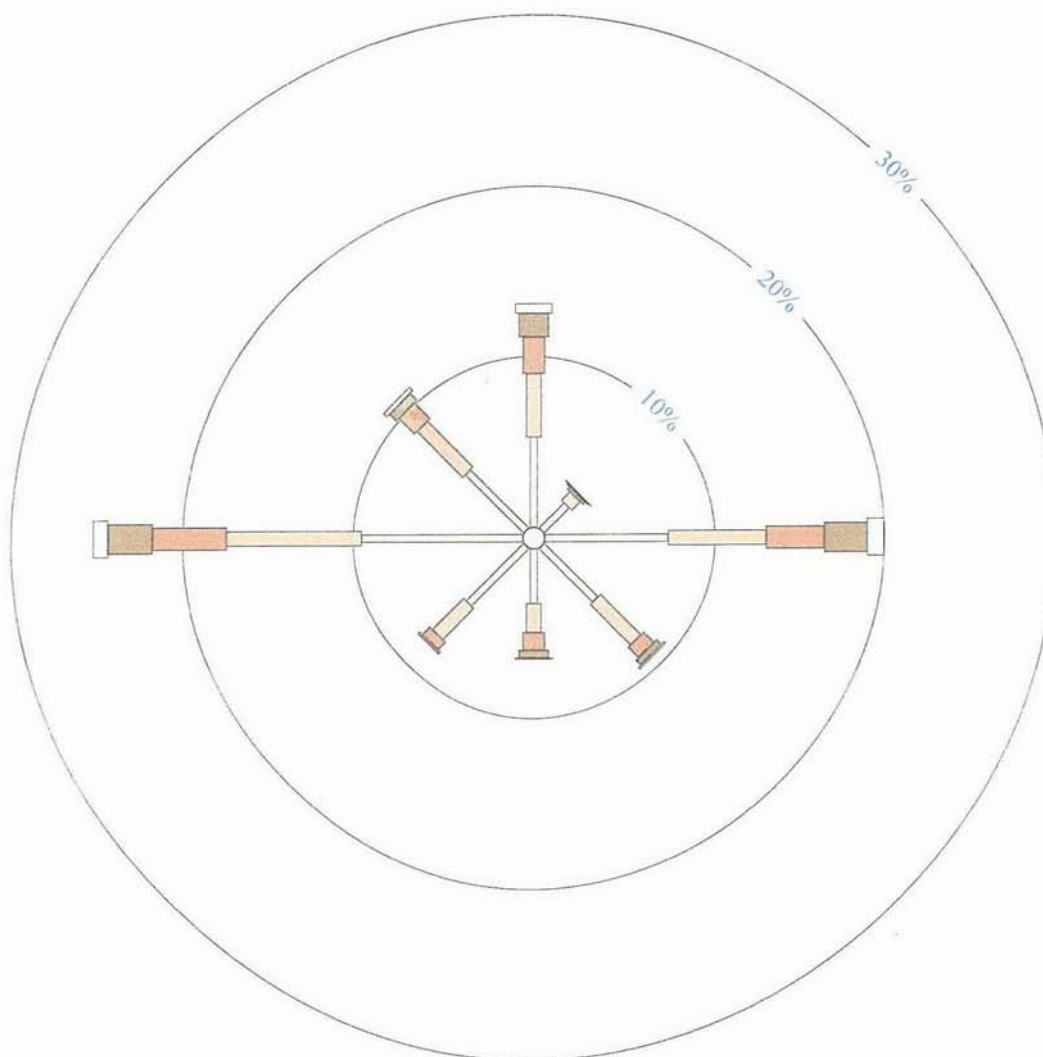
(3)



3 pm AN

12727 Total Observations

Calm 3%



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

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Rose of Wind direction versus Wind speed in km/h (02 Jan 1965 to 30 Sep 2010)

Custom times selected, refer to attached note for details

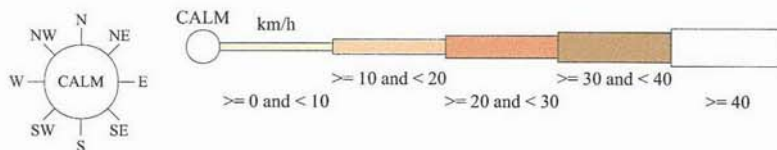
DUNEDOO POST OFFICE

Site No: 064009 • Opened Jan 1912 • Still Open • Latitude: -32.0159° • Longitude: 149.3964° • Elevation 388m

An asterisk (*) indicates that calm is less than 0.5%.

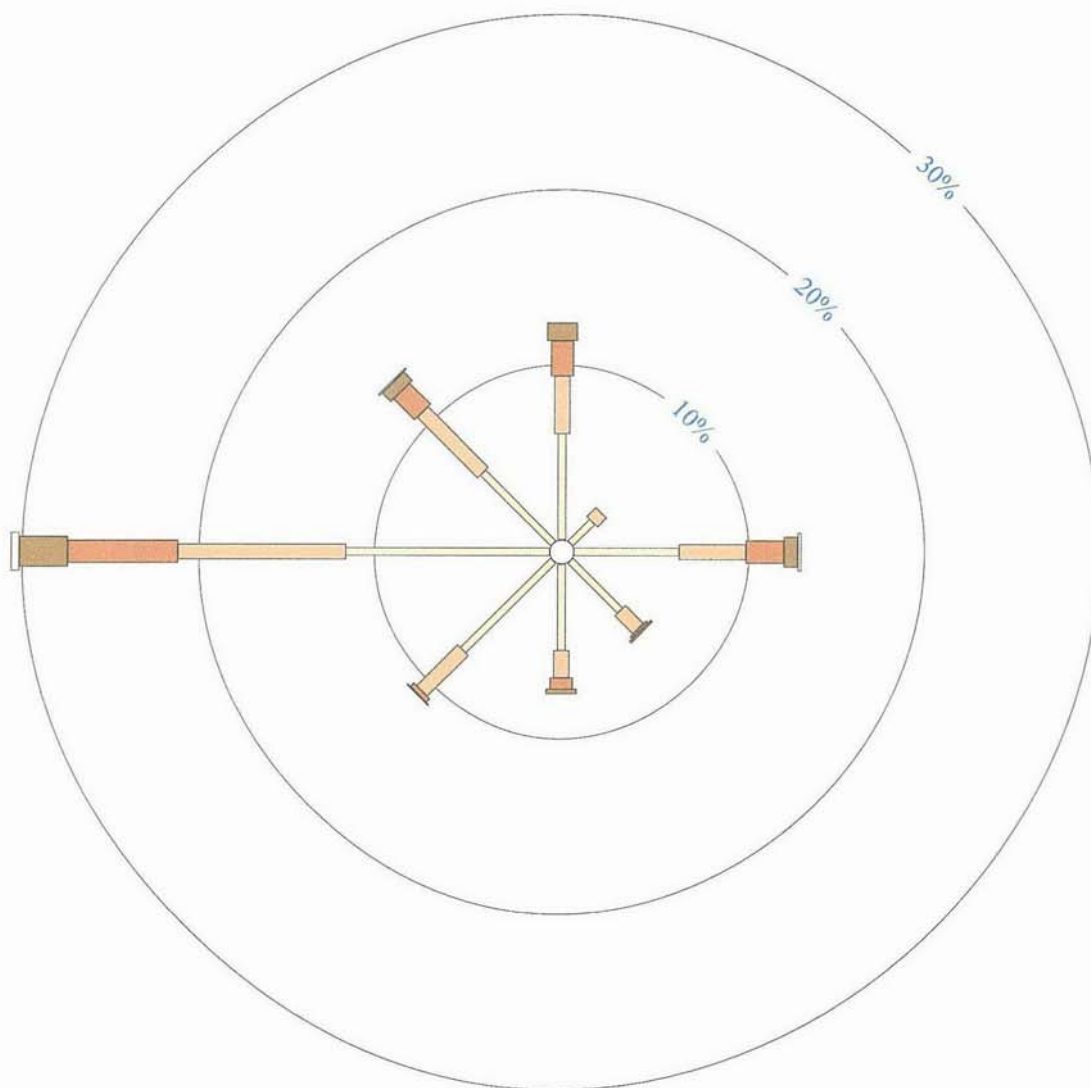
Other important info about this analysis is available in the accompanying notes.

(4)



3 pm Jul
1083 Total Observations

Calm 3%



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EXTRACT FROM CONTRIBUTION TO POLLUTION BY AIRBOURNE PARTICLES
(5) IN URBAN & NON URBAN ENVIRONMENTS
AN ERDC STUDY FINAL REPORT JUNE 1995

APPENDIX A - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In summary, visibility impairment by light scattering and absorption of aerosols mainly occurs below the PM_{2.5} fine particle or accumulation mode cut off. Coarse particles ($> 2.5 \mu\text{m}$) do not play a significant role in this form of visual pollution.

A.2 FINE PARTICLES AND HEALTH EFFECTS

A.2.1 Lung Retention and Ingestion

Respirable particles are generally defined by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) as having diameters less than $10 \mu\text{m}$, ie. PM₁₀ size particles. Particles of this size can penetrate the upper respiratory tract and the bronchi, however, they will not penetrate deep into the lungs and the alveoli and hence are not absorbed directly into the blood stream. Particles greater than $10 \mu\text{m}$ can lodge in the nasal passages, trachea and nasopharyngeal regions and are generally expelled through the nose or swallowed and ingested. Particle size is obviously critical in assessing the health effects of aerosols. Figure A.3, taken from the work of the US Department of Health (1969), shows the fraction of particles deposited in various places of the human anatomy as a function of particle size. Particles from the accumulation mode ($< 2.5 \mu\text{m}$) have the highest deposition efficiencies (20 - 70%) for the human pulmonary system, while up to 100% of particles from the mechanical mode ($> 2.5 \mu\text{m}$) are deposited in the naso-pharyngeal system. The trachea-bronchial system has a relatively low deposition efficiency ($< 10\%$) for all but the nearly gaseous size particles ($< 0.01 \mu\text{m}$). The TSP limit of $< 50 \mu\text{m}$ diameter covers the nasopharyngeal, pulmonary and trachea-bronchial systems. The PM₁₀ limit ($< 10 \mu\text{m}$) corresponds to a broad range of deposition efficiencies for both the pulmonary and nasopharyngeal systems and hence contains particle sizes that could be both ingested or inhaled. Work by Goldberg (1973) confirms that the fraction of particles retained in the human lung is at a maximum for particles of diameters between 0.5 and $2.5 \mu\text{m}$ (Figure A.4) and minimal for diameters above $5 \mu\text{m}$ and below $0.1 \mu\text{m}$.

A.2.2 Health Effects

Soluble fine particles have the capability to dissolve in the lung fluid and to chemically bind with lung tissue, having local effects, or to dissolve directly in the blood stream and as in the case of lead or other heavy metals may produce systemic poisoning. Insoluble particles may

be taken up by phagocytes (white blood cells, etc.), transported to the bronchioles and removed from the upper respiratory tract within the mucus. Mucus may be swallowed, and hence further absorption can occur through the gastro-intestinal tract, or it may be ejected as sputum. Insoluble particles that penetrate into the lung tissue may enter the lymph node system or react with the lung tissue producing infections or other diseases such as silicosis. These pathways are discussed in more detail by Hatch (1961).

A review on air pollution health effects and air quality objectives was prepared recently by Streeton (1990). This report recommended, on the basis of health effects, the introduction of objectives for PM₁₀ particles averaged daily and annually, and that TSP lead objectives of 1.5 µg/m³ be revised downwards to 1.0 µg/m³ averaged over 3 months. A recent report on asthma in children and smog in Victoria, (Rennick and Jarman, 1992), found that there was a significant relationship between asthma attendances and days when the airborne particle index, as supplied by the Victoria EPA, was above their guidelines.

Bobak and Leon 1992 found weak positive associations between neonatal mortality in the Czech Republic and PM₁₀ particles. Stronger adjusted effects were seen for post neonatal mortality, with a consistent increase in risk from the lowest to the highest PM₁₀ quintile. Weaker and less consistent evidence of a positive association with NO_x was observed. They estimated that for every 25 µg/m³ increase in PM₁₀ particle concentrations, the post neonatal respiratory mortality increased by a factor of 1.58. This work is in line with earlier studies done in 117 US metropolitan areas in the 1960's (Lave and Seskin, 1977). These showed a positive association between PM₁₀ and to a lesser extent sulphate concentrations and infant mortality. A 10% reduction in PM₁₀ levels was associated with a 1% decrease in infant mortality.

Pope et al 1992 looked at daily mortality rates and PM₁₀ levels for the total Utah County population from April 1985 to December 1989. The relative risk of death was found to increase monotonically with PM₁₀ levels, and the relationship was observed at PM₁₀ levels well below the US National Ambient Air Quality Standard of 150 µg/m³ (maximum for 24 hours). Mortality averaged approximately 4 - 5% higher for each 50 µg/m³ incremental increase. On days when the 5 day lagged moving average PM₁₀ levels exceeded 100 µg/m³, mortality counts averaged approximately 19% higher than on days when these levels were less than 50 µg/m³. The largest effects were for deaths from respiratory disease and cardiovascular disease. It was stated that 30-40% of respiratory disease deaths or 5 - 6% of total deaths in Utah County (pop. 260,000) were attributable to air pollution. The mean daily

mortality plotted against the mean PM10 levels for a 5 day lagged moving average is shown in Figure A.5.

Further data from the US Six Cities Study of Air Pollution and Health (Ware et al, 1986; Dockery et al, 1989) shows that particle levels are positively associated with rates of chronic cough, bronchitis and chest illness in pre adolescent children.

A.3 CLIMATE EFFECTS

Particles in the atmosphere absorb and reflect solar radiation, modify the temperature profile through the atmosphere and change the droplet structure of clouds (Hobbs and McCormick 1988). Via these mechanisms, they can exert a cooling effect which appears to be of comparable magnitude but opposite in sign to the enhanced greenhouse effect. The magnitude of this cooling is currently one of the largest uncertainties in predicting future global temperatures. Recent reports on the uncertainties in greenhouse modelling (Penner et al 1993) have emphasised the need for more extensive physical and chemical data on atmospheric aerosols. At present, sulphate aerosol particles are considered to be the most significant contributors to greenhouse masking and have been the subject of much study (Charlson et al 1992). This raises many issues, for example: efforts to reduce acid rain by curbing sulphur dioxide emissions may exacerbate global warming due to the reduction of sulphate aerosol particles. Organic aerosols, elemental carbon and mineral matter are also considered important in greenhouse masking, but may be more significant in the southern than the northern hemisphere. Little information is available on the chemical or physical properties of aerosols in the southern hemisphere, particularly above land masses where satellite data are not available.

The effect of atmospheric particles on climate depends in part upon the presence or absence of clouds (Kiehl and Briegleb 1993). Under clear skies, particles reflect solar radiation, causing a general cooling. Some particles, such as elemental carbon, also absorb significant radiation throughout the atmosphere, reducing the heating of the surface and thus altering the temperature profile through the atmosphere. This in turn modifies convection processes and thus weather patterns. Under cloudy skies, the effects of particles are more complex and are poorly understood. The effect of particles on radiation is difficult to determine because much radiation is reflected by the clouds themselves. One significant influence of the particles is that of increasing the number of cloud condensation nuclei.

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Sheila Nagaratnam, of Gordon NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

I strongly wish to express my objection to the Cobbora Coal Mine, not merely because it will destroy 200 hectares of wildlife habitat. Given that the real threat of climate change and global warming is gravely concerning the most distinguished levels of the international scientific establishment, and capturing the attention of world governments and global news headlines on a daily basis, then any responsible State authority must seriously enact policies that will drive the global mean temperature rise below the "2 degree guardrail limit", although the recent Doha World Climate Summit warned that this opportunity has slipped away.

Therefore, rather than heavily subsidise coal to generators at a loss to taxpayers, the government should be supporting a more level playing field, with any new investments advancing Australia's future position in the emerging low carbon global economy. Australia's abundant renewable energy resources of solar and wind are the envy of the world. Specifically, concentrated solar thermal technology offers despatchable power, which is better than baseload coal generation, which if strategically located and supported by wind power, along with an increasing rooftop photovoltaic penetration, will easily support the bulk of Australia's energy demand over the coming decade and beyond.

Notwithstanding environmental considerations, please reconsider the business case for this project. It is well understood that even the Gulf States are now looking to invest massively in solar so they can reduce their domestic oil consumption rather than compete with high export prices.

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Prenaven Naidoo, of NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Good day,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed project. I object to the Cobbora coal mine due to:

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.

Regards,

Prenaven Naidoo
+61 (0) 404 222 562

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Jean Marie Naples, of West Haverstraw, New York, USA NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Premier Barry O'Farrell
Planning Minister Brad Hazzard
Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales
PO Box 137 Newtown NSW 2042

Dear Premier O'Farrell and Planning Minister Hazzard,
I am writing from West Haverstraw, NY, USA to submit comments regarding the proposed Cobbora coal mine. The Cobbora Coal project is proposed in central west NSW north-west of Mudgee and east of Dubbo. It is a state-owned coal mining project tied to the sale of the power stations. It will lock NSW into coal-fired electricity generation until at least 2036. The proposal is to mine 20mtpa (million tonnes per annum) to produce 12mtpa of usable coal - it is extremely poor quality product with high ash content. The project aims to provide cheap domestic coal to power stations in the Upper Hunter and Central Coast. The health impacts of using poor quality coal have not been assessed. The justification for the project is based on incorrect projections of demand for coal-fired electricity over the next 10 years. Demand has dropped significantly since this project was proposed. The price of black coal on the export market has also dropped below the projections used to justify the need to source cheaper coal for domestic use. The mine will cost the NSW taxpayer approx \$3.4billion 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.

Due to this multitude of environmental and public health risks I am opposed to the construction of 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. In addition, 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 key points of objection to the construction of the Cobbora Coal Project, Preferred Project Report (PPR) are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

The increased height of over burden emplacements by 20m will increase dust emissions.

The air quality model needs to be redone using all available meteorological information.

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

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

Due to these multiple environmental and public health concerns, As a physician and public health advocate, I am submitting these comments to strongly oppose the construction of the Cobbora Coal Mine Project. Thank you for consideration of my comments and letter.

Jean Marie Naples, MD-Ph.D.

Jean Marie Naples, MD-Ph.D. 9 Benson Street West Haverstraw, New York 10993-1302
USA email = jnaples@jhsph.edu

March 3, 2013

Melissa Neighbour
5/168 New South Head Road
Edgecliff NSW 2027

7 March 2013

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Objection to the Cobbora coal mine

I am a resident of Edgecliff in Sydney's eastern suburbs. I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed project.

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.

Given that NSW taxpayers are liable for something like \$3 billion over the next decade or so, I'd rather see the money go to close down the coal generators that would be dependent on the Cobbora mine. They'll be entitled to compensation, but the compensation should be used to buy them out and shut them down.

Coal is out. Renewables are the future. Let's go there.

Kind regards,



Melissa Neighbour

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Tony Newman , of Ourimbah NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear Premier O'Farrell,

I strongly object to the development of this coal mine at tax payers' expense, or any expense. We must move to renewable clean energy as fast as possible. Short sighted decisions will result in great suffering for our children and their children.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Newman
84 Glen Rd.,
Ourimbah. 2258
ph 43 621 660
tonynewman@tadaust.org.au

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

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Dear planners,

For the sake of our Community and our Planet;

Do not plan for MORE Coal, MORE pollution, MORE carbon emissions, MORE Environmental Destruction.

Instead, plan to put our Peoples Billions to the development of sustainable, non polluting sources of providing our energy needs.

Forget the Pick and Shovel and think Sun,Wind and Water.

Use OUR Billions for Education and Ingenuity.

Peter Nicholas

Nowra, NSW

--

Peter Nicholas

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

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

4 March 2013

Dear Mr O'Donoghue,

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

I am writing to let you know my extreme disappointment with the newly revised Preferred Project Report (PPR).

Having written to you previously about the inadequate water assessment, I now find that the PPR has increased its water demand for mining operations from 3.7 ML per year up to 4.34 ML. with no apparent justification.

My submission to you dated 16 November 2012 says in part:-

"The Cobborah proposal will also have far-reaching consequences for the groundwater and river systems of the Cudgegong. As the ash content of the coal is high, a high volume of water is required to wash it. 3.7gigalitres of water per year are to be directed to the mine for this purpose. This is the current water use for everything in the Cudgegong Valley at present, whether it is for town water, the wine industry or irrigation for agriculture.

To take this amount of water from the Murray-Darling Basin in the present circumstances is crazy, and downright wrong for Mudgee's tourism and wine industries. The urban water security from Windamere Dam could also be threatened in times of extended drought. Groundwater is not suitable for use as town water as it is so heavy mineralized."

None of these issues have been addressed, let alone the increased pumping required from the Cudgegong, and the effect of taking higher natural flows out of the river.

The endangered ecological Grassy Box Woodland has fared no better under the new PPR. A further 92 ha of woodland would be destroyed, including 11ha of threatened ecological communities.

I note that this mine's coal was contracted to Eraring and Vales Point power stations by

the now disgraced Ian McDonald when he was Minister for Mining and Energy. The economics of this coal mine owned by the State Government still have not been adequately assessed. The

gentrader deal and contracts negotiated by the ALP when it was in government could be satisfied through other arrangements.

I really cannot go past my closing statement of 16 November 2012:-

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

Yours sincerely

Ms Diane O'Mara
2 Little Belmore St
Gulgong NSW 2852

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don Owers, of Dudley NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

15 Bimbae Close

Dudley 2290

4th March 2013

Submission; Objection to Cobbora coal project

Dear Sir,

I understand the proposed coal mine at Cobbora near Dubbo is to be government subsidised, some suggesting that this benefit may be as high as \$3b. I would therefore request that you not only abandon plans for the mine but also the plan for coal fired power stations. I make this request on the following grounds ;

The recently released Climate Commission report which finds a clear link between global climate change and extreme weather events in Australia. There should be no doubt this change is occurring and that it is directly linked to the green house gases produced by the combustion of fossil fuels. Storm damage in Queensland has cost that government \$6b in just 2 years, we cannot afford to build these power stations when there are cleaner alternatives.

climatecommission.gov.au/report/the-angry-summer

Recently the finance group Bloomberg announced that wind power was now cheaper than coal fired power . The science of green energy is rapidly improving whereas thermal power is limited by laws of thermodynamics, it cannot get any more efficient and will suffer drastic power loss as cooling systems falter in hot weather.

<http://www.cnet.com.au/renewable-power-now-cheaper-than-coal-gas-339343246.htm>

Emissions from coal power stations are dangerous to the health. P2.5s are especially harmful and we should not contemplate allowing even more into the atmosphere.

There is an ongoing corruption case against members of the previous government, directly related to coal leases and a suspicion that this has extended even further. It is

highly improper to continue with negotiations on long term contracts with mining companies until the full extent of the criminal activities is revealed.

Yours faithfully,

Don Owers

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Garry Owers, of Meerschaum Vale NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Cobbora Coal Project



Objects to this project

Hi,
Attached is a submission by way of objection to the Cobbora Coal Project
- Preferred Project Report Application No: 10-0001

Thanks, Garry Owers

--

Garry & Angela Owers
376 Bagotville Road
Meerschaum Vale,
NSW, 2477.
P. 02 6683 4065
M. 0438 834 066
E. gowers10@dodo.com.au

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

Garry Owers BAppSc (Hons)
376 Bagotville Road,
Meerschaum Vale
NSW, 2477.
P. 02 6683 4065

4th March 2013

Major Planning Assessments
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001
plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Re: Submission – Objection to Preferred Project Report Application No: 10-0001
Cobbora coal project

Dear Sir/Madam,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed project. This project will lock in the increase the release of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere while destroying native ecosystems in order to increase profits for rich mining companies. I object to the proposal on the following grounds: -

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 Government 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.
11. The project does not satisfy any of the four criteria for Ecological Sustainable Development
12. The increase in carbon dioxide to the atmosphere cannot be justified at a time when we should be reducing emissions and changing to proven sustainable energy sources, this project will delay the shift to sustainable while assisting to cause catastrophic climate change.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Garry Owers', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Garry Owers