

Bathurst group opposes Cobbora mine

19 Nov, 2010 09:46 AM

(Mudgee Guardian)

Bathurst Community Climate Action Network (BCAN) has joined with other environment groups in the Central West in opposing the State Government's plan Cobbora Mine Project near Gulgong.

Coal from the mine is expected to be used to power generators for 17 years at a fixed price of about \$32 a tonne, well below the current price of \$44.

BCCAN is calling on all members of the NSW Parliament and candidates for the state election next March to express their opposition to the plan.

BCCAN president John Kellett said the project was a "a sweetener to attract private operators to purchase the state's electricity generation capacity".

He said it would result in taxpayers having to pay the estimated \$1 billion cost of subsidising private power companies and the coal industry.

"It is time that the State Government was serious about investing in renewable energy," Mr Kellett said.

"It [the State Government] should be phasing out outdated, polluting coal fired power generating technologies rather than selling them to private operators and subsidising them.

"If the \$1 billion subsidy was instead spent on supporting the expansion of renewable energy over the next 17 years it would provide great employment opportunities in regional areas.

"The Central West has a great opportunity for the development of new manufacturing industries around renewable energy."

Nick King, co-ordinator of Orange Climate Action Network (OCAN), called on state members of parliament to oppose the proposed government operation of the mine and the proposed subsidised pricing of the coal it produced.

"The worrying thing about the government's proposal is that it would commit the State of NSW to coal fired power generation for 17 years." he said.