

[REDACTED]

Dear Rose-Anne Hawkeswood,

I wish to make a submission regarding the recently submitted MOD 7 of the Boggabri Coal Project.

I object to the changes to consent condition 47(a) of the Boggabri Coal Project.

It is important that the following sentence remains in consent condition 47(a)

*...the long term security shall be provided by way of the Proponent entering into a conservation agreement or agreements pursuant to section 69B of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, recording the obligations assumed by the Proponent under the conditions of this approval in relation to these offset areas, and registering the agreement(s) pursuant to section 69F of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.*

The reasons for my objection are:

1. Much of the vegetation that has already been cleared, and will continue to be cleared, from the Leard State Forest is not just native vegetation, but the critically endangered ecological community of the white box grassy woodland. The coal mines that operate within the Leard State Forest have already been given an incredible amount of leeway in being allowed to clear this critical endangered habitat. As such, approval for this mine was on the condition that offsets of this habitat are found and preserved in perpetuity. It was clearly the intention of the original Planning Assessment Commission to give as much protection to the

offset areas as possible and as a result condition 47(a) included conservation agreements under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. It is therefore imperative that every protection continues to be given to any and all offset areas and this clause not be amended.

2. The Boggabri Coal Project is not the only project that has been allowed to clear critically endangered ecological communities and offset those clearings with 'like for like' habitat being preserved in perpetuity using conservation agreements. If this proponent is allowed to alter in any way the protection provided under consent condition 47(a) it will set a very dangerous precedent.
3. I further object to the proponent referring to this modification as a "largely administrative amendment" (pg 7). The changes requested to consent condition 47(a) have huge ramification for the conservation of the state's native vegetation and biodiversity. If this modification continues through the assessment process it (or any similar modification in the future) must be made more available to public consultation, with community meetings, an exhibition period, public submissions and must be assessed by the planning assessment commission.

