

Cobbora Mine proposal:

The NSW Government conducted coal exploration drilling in the Laheys Creek area between 2006 and 2009. An unincorporated joint venture was formed between Macquarie Generation, Delta Electricity and Eraring Energy to develop a 30 million tonne per annum mine to supply coal to the state's power stations. Contracts were negotiated with Delta and Eraring on the central coast.

Property owners began to be approached to sell their land during 2009. The environmental impact of the original proposal was too great and a smaller mine was considered.

The change of NSW Government in 2011 caused the project to be re-examined. A state-owned corporation was formed as Cobbora Holdings. The contracts with the power stations were cancelled but the planning process for the mine has continued with the aim to on sell to a private company.

Cobbora Holdings continued to purchase properties and now owns 458 squ kms of land displacing a large number of local farming families. The township of Dunedoo has lost its customer base and has suffered a major economic decline since the Cobbora proposal commenced.

A smaller mine proposal was approved by the NSW Government and is waiting for an independent determination by the Planning Assessment Commission. The final hearing was conducted in Dunedoo on 11 March 2014.