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**From:****Sent:** Tuesday, 13 December 2022 11:30 AM**To:** DPE CSE Information Planning Mailbox <[information@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:information@planning.nsw.gov.au)>**Subject:** Moolarben OC3 Extension Project SSF-33083358

I could not add this submission through the Major Projects Portal so was advised to email it to you for processing. Thankyou.

- I object the project
- I agree that my name be published, and that my address be withheld ( eg I agree that the department may publish my full name but request that my address be withheld)
- I have not made reportable political donations in the previous 2 years

**Submission: Moolarben Coalmine Extension to Open Cut 3 SSF-33083358**

My submission objecting to the expansion of the Moolarben Coalmine to open cut.

I am objecting to any increase in coal mining in the Mudgee area due to the impacts it will have on the environment.

I recently visited the Mudgee area with friends and we were taken to The Drip for a walk along the Goulburn River.

It is a most picturesque area to get away from city stress, the river was flowing, due to recent floods, there was bushland thriving in the conditions and birdlife to see.

However on the drive to get to this site I remember seeing along the road the devastation to the environment of the existing mines. Open cut areas that were partly hidden from view by tree plantings only emphasized the damage that had been wrought on the countryside.

So for all the following reasons there should be no more expansion of coal mining in this area.

1. Climate Change impacts:  
The proposal is to produce an additional 40 million tonnes of coal and increase greenhouse gas emissions by **86.59 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e**
2. First Nations heritage impacts:  
A total of 130 first nations cultural heritage sites were identified within or overlapping the subject area including shelters with artefacts (one with possible burial), and axe grinding groove site
3. Water impacts:
  - The permanent loss of potable, good quality (low salinity) groundwater from springs that provide fresh flows to creeks and the Goulburn River
  - A predicted loss of baseflows to the Goulburn River between 180 – 225 million litres /year and 600 million litres in wet years. This will impact on river health and downstream water users, including Goulburn River National Park.
  - A 200m buffer zone to Moolarben and Murdering Creeks (aimed at protecting them from mining) includes mine haul roads and other infrastructure impacting crucial riparian vegetation.
4. Biodiversity impacts:
  - The extended mining operations will come within 100m of the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve threatening important conservation values especially native bird and Koala habitat.
  - Noise, dust and lights from the 24 hour operations will disrupt the many identified threatened and endangered birds, mammals and bat species that live in and around the valley.
  - The project would result in the clearing of 624.18 ha native vegetation including 477.75 ha of Box-Gum Woodland Critically Endangered Ecological Communities. This is irreplaceable and cannot be adequately offset.

- Ecosystem habitat loss for 22 threatened fauna species including: Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*), Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), Large-eared Pied Bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*)
5. Agricultural impacts:  
Loss of food production potential on large areas of prime agricultural land that previously supported many farming families. This land should be assessed as Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) and assessed through the Gateway process.

Margaret May

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