

Submission of Objection to Moolarben OC3 Extension Project

SSD-33083358

I write to object to this project. I believe it is unnecessary and should not be approved for the following reasons:

1. It would contribute to our global climate crisis. The only purpose for mining coal is for it to be burnt – hence Scope 3 emissions, which influence the Earth’s climate. It is illogical to exclude Scope 3 emissions from consideration – Australia is influenced by the Earth’s climate systems. Therefore the total greenhouse gases calculated for this project must be assessed and the impact considered.
2. Valuable plant communities would be destroyed – 624.18ha of native vegetation. Humans need healthy ecosystems to supply our food, fibre and shelter, and if we continue to destroy the plants (and habitat) that constitute these viable ecosystems we are in fact destroying our own future. The critically endangered Box Gum Woodland (477.75ha) cannot be replaced – when it is gone, it is gone forever.
3. The fauna that utilise the site cannot exist without their healthy, appropriate habitat. The threatened species listed would be further threatened if this project was to be approved. The emerging koala population is of national importance, and it should be protected. Habitat loss for 22 threatened species is too much to try to manage or offset – this is not possible.
4. The project site is almost surrounded by Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve. This high level of protection indicates the significance and value of this area. The adjoining natural landscape (ie, the project site) provides a buffer and movement zone for the species which inhabit the Reserve. If the project proceeded it would reduce the value of the Reserve and the habitat area of species which currently use the Reserve.
5. Many cultural heritage sites of Aboriginal people would be destroyed, and the significance of the landscape obliterated. The cumulative effects of coal mining in the vicinity is extensive and any further impacts on this heritage must be prevented.
6. The springs in the Moolarben valley are a critical part of the water systems within the vicinity. If this project is approved the springs would be obliterated and flows to creeks and the Goulburn River would be decreased. This would have a negative impact on all riparian species locally and downstream.
7. The current landuse for agriculture is appropriate and provides a value to all. This would be lost if the project proceeds.
8. Community consultation is a very weak aspect of this project proposal. I urge the Department to examine Appendix E Social Impact Assessment very carefully. It reveals a lack of sincerity with regard to community involvement and a reliance on website and phone numbers as a method communication. This is not logical or appropriate in a rural region.

Sincerely

Rosemary Hadaway