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**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** My submission re Moolarben oc3

I wish to place my submission **opposing** Moolarben Coalmine Extension to Open Cut 3.

I wish to confirm that **my name be withheld**.

I have **not made any political donations** in the last year, or ever.

My reasons for being strongly opposed to this project are heart-felt as I live within observation distance of the existing mine, within hearing, sight and emissions intake range and I witness the environmental destruction that has been going on even before this proposed extension, from my flora and fauna sanctuary. This already is taking its toll on my mental and physical health. I can see the ways and manners by which these ailments will increase should the open cut extend, and it fills me with dread.

And yet it is not my personal wellbeing greatest at stake, but the wellbeing of the ecosystems and biodiversity of those most species-rich yet fragile plant and animal communities of Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve.

*The Munghorn*, as it is locally and affectionately known, is of great national interest too, as it is one of the reserves with the highest number of birds in Australia.

It will destroy this status and the richness and integrity of the Nature Reserve should this project go ahead, cutting in closely adjacent to its boundary. The proposed buffer zone is in no way wide enough to be an effective one, and it doesn't take into account buffering existing ecological corridors linking The Munghorn with other significant natural areas surrounding it, and thus allowing for species and genetic diversity.

I am not just quoting here, I have actual knowledge of the outcomes of such destruction, modification and fragmentation of habitat and landscape. I am a retired bush regenerator/ecological practitioner, though retired only from the pay packet as I still actively run my flora and fauna refuge here, where I am seeing degradation happening already, with the mines so far.

Also, digging up and burning coal is the worst thing anyone could do for the welfare of Mother Earth, our planet.

Whatever you do, do not allow this coalmine extension to go ahead. There is too much at stake, whichever way you look at it. Much more, as you know, than what I have mentioned here.

As a still active retired bush regenerator, suffering the onslaught of coal mines in my area, I know there are more important things than money. If only the miners would listen, and heed. If their mines do not extend, they might be forced out of those dreadful mines and find a better life, and so a better life for everybody, and everything.

Please do not allow this project to go ahead. Nothing else matters as much as this.