



**Healthy Rivers Dubbo**

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NSW Department of Planning

Lodged at <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/moolarben-oc3-extension-project>

## **Submission**

### **Objection to Moolarben Coalmine Extension to Open Cut 3**

Healthy Rivers Dubbo (HRD) is a grass roots community network dedicated to providing a strong voice for our local rivers, aquifers and wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin for the benefit of wildlife, plants and people. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge that this land was never ceded.

HRD objects to the approval of Moolarben Coalmine extension to Open Cut 3.

#### **Water Impacts**

The cumulative impacts of the mines operating in the headwaters of the Goulburn River has already led to permanent loss of critical water source. Further expansion of mining activities would cause a loss of valuable high quality groundwater from springs that report into the creeks that feed the Goulburn River.

The expansion is expected to mean a loss of between 180 and 225 million litres in an average year to the Goulburn River. This will cause further habitat loss for threatened and endangered wildlife.

#### **Climate Change**

This expansion would produce an additional 10 million tonnes of coal. That would increase greenhouse gas emissions by 86.59 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent.

In 2021, the executive director of the International Energy Agency, Fatih Birol, said, "If governments are serious about the climate crisis, there can be no new investments in oil, gas and coal, from now— from this year."

The world is already experiencing a rise in dangerous weather events that are exacerbated by climate change. There should be no new or expanded coal or gas mines approved in Australia.

For more information about this submission, contact the Healthy Rivers Dubbo Committee

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