

WOLLAR PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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Tuesday 13 December 2022

Objection - Moolarben OC3 Extension Project: SSD-33083358

Wollar Progress Association objects to the proposed expansion of coal mining at Moolarben Coal Mine because the cumulative impacts of mining in the region are causing too many problems for the remaining community while damaging the environment and amenity of the local area.

There is no valid justification for extracting an additional 40 million tonnes of coal from the Moolarben Mine on top of the approved 22 million tonnes per year until 2038.

Members of the Wollar community with properties on the Goulburn River have been impacted by the recent extreme rainfall events with regular flooding and deteriorating road conditions. Increased volumes of water discharged from the mines has kept flows artificially high and prolonged loss of internal property access and public road access.

The Wollar community is being increasingly impacted by extreme weather events including Section 44 fires, prolonged droughts and now, above record floods. The loss of the Mogo Road causeway on Wollar Creek through a large flash flood isolated a number of community members for several weeks.

Climate change extremes are causing social disruption and economic loss.

Because of the extensive loss of local community members in the region due to property acquisition by mining companies, volunteer services such as the rural fire brigades have depleted capacity through loss of active volunteers.

We are concerned that the predictions for a season of intense grass fires will cause further strain on community members. Now is the time for reducing greenhouse gas emissions not approving the extraction of more coal.

Local landholders in the Wollar area have been impacted by large blasts from open cut mining operations at Moolarben Mine. The disturbance caused by overpressure that rattles windows and shakes buildings is a very unsettling loss of amenity.

The argument that the extension of coal mining at Moolarben will support jobs does not hold up when there are a large number of vacancies at the three mines in the district. There is competition for labour across all industries in the region. The expanding renewable energy industry is struggling to find a workforce.

The approved Wollar Solar Farm is now in construction and has been impacted by both the extreme wet weather and lack of sufficient construction workers. The Moolarben Coal Mine is within the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone. Focus should be on moving away from coal.

The social, economic and environmental costs of the proposal are greater than any predicted benefits. The local region does not need the impacts of more coal extraction.

Wollar Progress Association considers it irresponsible for the NSW Government to continue approving coal mining expansion in the region. The proposed Moolarben OC3 Extension Project must be rejected.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Hughes', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Bruce Hughes

President