

Ms Sara Wilson
Planning Officer
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
23-33 Bridge Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Email: sara.wilson@planning.nsw.gov.au

Friday 14th June, 2013

Dear Ms Wilson

This is a submission against the proposed Moolarben Mine Stage 1 Modification 9 (Part3AMod)

The proponents of this mine extension have sought to exaggerate the economic importance of the project, while deliberately failing to adequately address the impacts of the project on other industries, on the public, and on the environment. This is common practise in these documents.

I submit that the project should be rejected for the following reasons.

Global warming

- The project would result in the release of more than 555 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent over twenty-one years, as acknowledged in Appendix D of the Environmental Assessment (EA).
- The proponent, as usual, seeks to downplay the significance of this. However, it is a major impact of the project. The life-cycle greenhouse pollution from the proposed coal mine would release year mining project would actually produce more greenhouse pollution than Australia's entire annual domestic emissions¹.
- The impacts of global warming are already claiming the lives of an estimate 300,000 people every year, according to the Global Humanitarian Forum in Geneva.

Other issues

- Clearing will destroy 171.4 ha of woodland including vegetation communities listed for protection under state and federal law. This is additional to the removal of 416.8 ha native vegetation in the current approval for Moolarben Stage 1. The cumulative impacts on biodiversity of this and other coal mines in the region pose an unacceptable risk.
- The proposal to extend the existing mine footprint by 25% will disturb an additional 178 ha and create a super pit covering 886 ha. The impacts of this on land and water resources are unacceptable, and outweigh the economic benefits of the project.
- The extension will remove vegetated sandstone ridgeline habitat 100m, 60m and 30m high while increasing dust and noise impacts on the surrounding public.
- The extensive surface disturbance, open cut pits and overburden emplacement in close proximity to Moolarben Creek represents a significant threat to downstream water quality from sediment and salinity discharge into the headwaters of the Goulburn River.
- The proposed Water Management Plan suspends the protection of water quality. This is an admission by the proponents that the project is likely to impact heavily on water quality.
- The increased mine size will intercept additional overland and base flows to the Goulburn River.

¹ According to the December 2012 Quarterly Update of Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (Commonwealth Dept of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research, and Tertiary Education), Australia's annual emissions (excluding LULUCF) were 551.9 Mtpa, compared to approx 555 Mt over the life of the proposed Moolarben extension.

- 'The Drip' must be protected within Goulburn River National Park before this proposal can be considered.
- The mine has demonstrated inability to manage pollution incidents and has been fined a number of times for breaching existing conditions of approval.

I know that my submission will be ignored, and this project approved. So thank you for wasting my time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Phillips', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Steve Phillips
167 Parry Street
Hamilton 2303