

David Stokes
"Coonaroo"
Moolarben Rd
Cooyal NSW 2850
Ph: (02) 6373 4674

21/06/2013

Submission Version 2

Moolarben Coal Project Stage 1 Modification 9

I, David Stokes, object to the Moolarben Coal Project Stage 1 Modification 9.

I am a landowner, Residence identifier 32, within the potential area of impact surrounding the Moolarben Coal Stage 1 Project. My property is located to the South of Open Cut 3 at the end of Moolarben Valley and Moolarben Road surrounded by hills and National Park. I do not believe the impacts to my property have been adequately addressed through the Modification 9 Environmental Assessment (EA). I have also uploaded as part of this submission a Letter sent to the Environment and Community Manager at Moolarben Coal Operations in March 2013 as a response to feedback requested by Moolarben Coal from attendance at the Information Session held at Ulan Community House prior to Stage 9 EA submission. I do not believe that the feedback that I provided was addressed.

I believe my property will be adversely impacted in the following areas;

- **Noise**

The MCO Stage 1 Modification 9 project will involve removing the hills between stages 1 & 2 mining areas and the removal of the hill to the south of Stage 2; this means the noise impacts to the south of the operations will be greater despite the planned noise barriers. The operations will create a haul road valley running north to south; my property is located to the south (end of Moolarben Road) with hills surrounding the property, as the noise travels down the valley it will have a great impact on my property and residence. I believe noise impacts including sleep disturbance will strongly affect my family.

My family and I have experience noise impacts from Moolarben Stage 1 (Open Cut 2) drilling operations.

My property was excluded from the noise assessment provided in appendix C of the Stage 9 EA. I do not believe a noise assessment has been conducted for my

property for Stage 1 of Moolarben Coal Operations. I would like to see an accurate assessment take place with the appropriate mitigation actions incorporated into the plan.

MCO Stage 1 Optimisation Modification project will involve removing the hill between stages 1 & 2 mining areas; this hill currently acts as a noise barrier to private residences in the Ridge Road area, taking it out will mean greater noise exposure and impacts for these residents.

- **Blasting**

My property will experience vibration and overpressure from Moolarben operations. The property already experiences vibration from Wilpinjong Coal Mine.

- **Groundwater**

I am concerned for continuity of the Spring Water source which feeds 90% of the agricultural enterprise and domestic requirements on my property via a natural spring, a well 3 metres deep with 3.3 metres of water depth and several spring fed dams. The potential drawdown predictions for Moolarben Creek Valley in the Modification 9 EA exceeding 2m up to 700m from Open Cut 1, plus slight increase predicted for the modification has caused concern over the continuity of the primary water resource on my property which I have used for the 25 years I have owned the property.

The groundwater studies presented in the EA address predictions for bores registered with NOW, however do not address other primary water sources for local properties such as mine with natural springs and spring fed dams. Condition 38 of Section 3 of Moolarben's Project Approval 05_0117 states a groundwater monitoring plan must include detailed baseline data of groundwater levels, yield and quality in the region particularly springs and seeps (including spring dams) that may be affected by mining operations. I would like to see the baseline studies of the springs on my property accurately recorded to ensure that any future impacts will be adequately compensated to allow my farming operation to continue.

- **Dust**

Increase in dust levels for my property and the surrounding National Park including Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve. Under Modification 9 Moolarben Coal Operations would have greater than 12 kilometres of haul road this creates a significant area for the generation of dust from vehicle movements. I believe that Moolarben Coal should use enclosed conveyors to transport coal to the Coal Handling Area in order to minimise impacts to air quality, visual amenity and reduce noise via a lower number of required traffic movements.

- **Cumulative effects from Moolarben Coal Operations and Wilpinjong Coal Mine**

My property is located to the west of the south most part of Wilpinjong Coal Operations and to the south of Moolarben Coal Operations. The cumulative effects of these two mining operations on my property have not been adequately

addressed by Moolarben in the EA for Modification 9. My property will experience cumulative effects for noise, dust, blast and groundwater. If Moolarben Stage 2 is approved the cumulative effects will be greatly increased.

Through the Stage 9 EA I feel that my property, residence identifier 32, has been omitted from various parts of the assessment.

This letter contains additional information to the letter submitted 14 June 2013 via the Department of Planning Website.

Regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D Stokes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Stokes