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Submission: Moolarben Coal Stage 1 Mod 12 and Stage 2- Mod 2

I object to both of the above projects;

- The impacts of a doubling of the mine extraction of coal have not been properly assessed. The idea of thinner supports and wider tunnels seems instinctively hazardous.
- A recent cliff collapse is an ongoing problem and the cumulative impact of the event has not been identified. To proceed with more mining without such information is foolhardy.
- Ground water modelling and aquifer interference have not been adequately assessed. Water is a precious resource in Australia and its' ongoing security should never be compromised to satisfy the needs of an overseas mining corporation.
- Central Hunter Eucalypt forest and woodland is now identified as "critically endangered" under EPBC Act. Survival of native species should never be compromised to the needs of any corporation let alone an overseas company.
- The proposal indicates a peak of 9 coal trains daily. The impacts of carrying coal in uncovered and unwashed wagons is now well-identified. It poses health risks along the entire coal-rail corridor. The risks are both from unleashed particulates and sleep disturbance.
- The recent highwall collapse at Moolarben Open Cut 1 closing a main thoroughfare and diverting traffic (including mine equipment) through the small village of Wollar may indicate inadequate safety management by Yancoal and could indicate that this company is not a fit and proper operator. Until the cause of this unpredicted and hugely costly (to the Public purse) event is properly identified no further activity should be countenanced.
- The inevitable mantra "jobs, jobs and more jobs" should be seriously questioned.
- Mining coal is an industry in terminal structural decline. Demand and price for coal have decreased dramatically. Most markets are aggressively pursuing alternate renewable energy sources.
- Yancoal has recently shed 225 jobs at other Hunter mines. The idea of job security is a myth that has been exposed in most recent mine approvals where proponents have used the "job mantra" only to sack workers once the approval is granted.

No further approvals for this mine should be issued.

J Leslie