

Submission: Objection to Moolarben Coal Operations Stage 1 Mod 14, Stage 2 Mod 3

Judith Leslie 339 The Inlet Road Bulga 2330

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This proposal comes at a time when there is Global concern about CO2 emissions. ANY increase to coal extraction should be seriously considered in the light of the Australian commitment to The Paris Agreement.

Also, the impacts on Australia's increasingly precious water resources cannot be justified.

At a time when more and more evidence of climate fragility is emerging modifications and/or extensions to coal-mining represent a future threat both to Australia and The World.

It is particularly pertinent to note;

Australia is an island, physically cut off from other land masses or nations. This fact makes water resources a vital component of future survival, particularly food security.

This project proposes a doubling of the mine's discharge licence from 10 ML/day to 20ML/day. This cannot be justified when, to date the current licence cap has not been reached.

The mine has not yet produced a Water Management Plan for previous approval even though this was required by October 2016. This "oversight" indicates this mine does not take water management seriously!

Water Treatment plants generate enormous quantities of brine. The water treatment plant used for dust suppression will allow this brine to flow into sediment dams that will overflow into the Goulburn river. This increased salinity has not been accounted for. This will increase the total salt load on the river and threaten The Goulburn River National Park, downstream water users AND The Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme.

Soil salinity is a major problem in The Hunter Valley, the more brine that is allowed to overflow on to land the more will ultimately evaporate and increase soil salinity.

Soil salinity should also be a major concern for future food security.

It is plain that the impacts on groundwater and salinity of both rivers and soil has not been fully considered.

Nor has the potential impact on future Australian food and water security

The risks to climate and to water impacts as well as food security **MUST** be taken into account and on those bases alone this modification should be **DISALLOWED**.



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