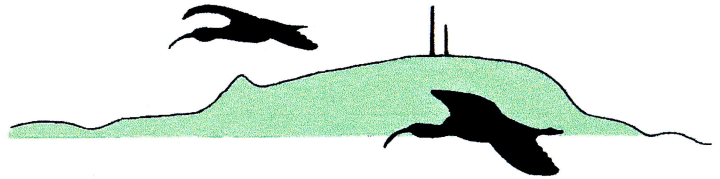


**ORANGE FIELD NATURALIST
& CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.**

PO Box 369

ORANGE NSW 2800



Moolarben Coal Operations Stage 1 Mod 14, Stage 2 Mod 3

Deadline: Thursday **7 December 2017**

The Orange Field Naturalist and Conservation Society is writing to you to state that we object to the proposal to extend (once again) the Moolarben Coal Operations.

Our group is composed of amateur and professional naturalists and conservationists who take a particular interest in the management and protection of The Drip, its surrounding lands and the flora and fauna.

Our main concern is that yet more critically endangered ecological communities will be destroyed by this proposal as well as habitat for nine threatened bird and five threatened microbat species. It is also potential habitat for iconic and declining species such as koala, regent honeyeater and brush-tailed rock wallaby. It is noted that the offset strategy has not been finalised, but is, in any event, very unlikely to be able to adequately compensate for the loss of these rare communities and habitats.

We are also very concerned about the likely impact this proposal will have on climate change, which the NSW government is pledged to address. The increase in carbon emissions will have a cost to the environment that has not been adequately assessed.

We thank you for the opportunity to have our concerns heard and trust that these are adequately taken into consideration.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemary Stapleton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosemary Stapleton,

Orange Field Naturalist & Conservation Society

5th December 2017.