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The NSW government has made a commitment to preserve "The Drip" area for future generations. This project will undo this promise. This beautiful scenic place that has for many years been enjoyed by all ages, Why put it at risk?

Moolarben Coal agreed to the timeframe to protect additional areas of land as State Conservation Area by March 2017. This still has not happened. How can we, the local community, be confident that they and the government departments involved will act in any way to preserve the conservation values of The Drip and the Goulburn River.

I am concerned that the following will contribute to the destruction to the health of the river at its headwaters; "The Drip" picnic area; the delightful river walk and the Great Dripping Wall Gorge.

Inadequate modelling and research:

1. Groundwater model assumptions do not reflect potential impacts on springs and the upper groundwater system essential to the health of the river.
2. Existing mine modelling failed to predict the 5 million litres per day groundwater make into Underground One.
3. The long term effect of dewatering and draining the landscape above the mine has not been adequately assessed.
4. The Water Management Plan for previous approvals, required by October 2016, is not available
5. There has been no independent study of the cumulative impact of mining on the headwaters of the Goulburn River

The impacts of increased water discharge.

1. The proposed increase of water discharge into the Goulburn River to 20 million litres per day will further degrade water quality and cause additional ecological stress to the river.
2. The cumulative impact with Ulan Coal and Wilpinjong Coal Mines already approved mine water discharges will alter the natural flow regime and dump up to 30 tonnes of salt per day into the river system.
3. The increasing total salt load of the Goulburn River will threaten the health of the Goulburn River in the National Park as well as further downstream.

For these reasons I believe that modification 14 should not be approved.

Yours Truly



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