

Sara Wilson - Moolarben Stage 2 (DA No.08_0135)

From: Denis Wilson <peonyden@gmail.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 2/22/2012 1:37 PM
Subject: Moolarben Stage 2 (DA No.08_0135)

NSW Dept of Planning

I write regarding Moolarben Stage 2 (DA No.08_0135)

"The Drip" and "Corner Gorge" deserve to be properly protected.

It ought have been transferred to the Goulburn River National Park.

Questions deserve to be asked as to why it was converted to freehold title, to Moolarben Mine. That decision is a disgrace.

At the very least, you can include in their DA provisions requiring the company to **not only** NOT mine these areas, but to guarantee that they will be **free from any impact from mining at any stage in the future**.

I have visited this site, and can personally testify to its natural beauty and significance as part of our National Heritage.

Here is a link to an image I took of that site.

http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_6sYA7Iz1xgw/SXW9yzpiSPI/AAAAAAAAIQE/Olw3IUysCds/s1600/Mi-+downstream.jpg

I formally request that the NSW Department of Planning act to protect this site, not only from immediate mining, but from ground subsidence and the effects of dewatering from the coal mine. Such practices by coal mines have been shown to travel far beyond the legal boundaries of a coal mining lease. The Department ought adjust its administrative arrangements to take into account the effects of pressure gradient changes in groundwater and aquifers when mines are dewatered, as part of their degasification procedures.

In that regard, I give you the example of the Tahmoor Colliery and its impact on the World Heritage Thirlmere Lakes (at least 600 metres beyond the limits of the Coal Mine lease) which have now been conclusively demonstrated to have been drained because of the spreading effects of the dewatering of the aquifer, via alteration in the water pressure gradients.

It is not enough to just draw a line on a map and say keep your coal mine behind that line. You need to actually plan to protect this important nature heritage site from the spreading effects of the alterations to the water table. Either that, or draw your line on the map further back than the normal "setback" you might require to minimise cliff face cracking or rock falls.

That is NOT ENOUGH.

It is called "The Drip" because water has for generations, if not for millennia, seeped through the aquifers in the rocks, and emerged at the cliff face. If the mine alters the pressure gradients in the local aquifers, then The Drip will dry up. That would kill the important vegetation which gives it its characteristic beauty and charm.

It is within your powers to act to protect "The Drip" and "Corner Gorge".

Kindly do something to actually protect these important features.

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