

**Sara Wilson - Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 \_ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08\_0135**

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**From:** Bimblebox Nature Refuge <bimblebox@gmail.com>  
**To:** <plan\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 2/23/2012 10:45 PM  
**Subject:** Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 \_ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08\_0135  
**CC:** <savethedrip@mdeg.org.au>

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23/2/2012

Dear Sir, please accept my comments on the Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 \_ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08\_0135

As a Nature Reserve owner I am requesting for the Department of Planning to appoint an independent expert panel (PAC) to fully scrutinise the deleterious consequences the Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 would have on the area known as The Drip and Corner Gorges amongst others.

Moolarben Stage 1 caused major devastation to the catchment with the Ulan, Wilpinjong , thus further possible unacceptable impacts of Stage 2 are summarized as follows

- The offset package should include the culturally and scenically significant river corridor known as The Drip and Corner Gorges securing its long term protection, appropriate management and on going public access
- The permanent damage (at least 100 years) to the Goulburn River and connected groundwater system
- Estimated cumulative water use by the three coal mines approximately 30-40ML/day (10-12 Gigalitre/annum)
- Water use for just the Moolarben Mine estimated to be 10.55ML/day (3850 ML/annum)
- Water deficit for 23 of 24 years (up to 1990ML extra water required)
- No confidence that the groundwater modelling accurately predicts water impacts - there are significant disparities between Moolarben and Ulan Coal Mines groundwater assessments.
- Water for coal washing should be first sourced from Ulan Coal Mine surplus groundwater before any extraction from the Northern Borefield (adjacent to the Goulburn River).
- Clearing of additional 900 ha of native forest (123ha EEC Box Woodland)
- Disturbance footprint of 1546 has of native vegetation including 4.1 kms of Murragamba creek, 4.1 kms of eastern creek and a direct impact on over 148

archaeological sites ( from scatters to rock shelters).

- Biodiversity offsets are located outside the Hunter Valley catchment, do not represent "like for like" nor replace the net loss to the bio-region or the east west vegetation corridor connecting the coastal forest to the western woodlands.
- Production 17Mt coal or 23.7 Million tonnes (co2-e) year of Greenhouse Gases fuelling further climate instability
- Excessive noise levels e.g location of the conveyor on top of ridge (must be sound attenuated and set lowered on landscape to minimise noise dispersal)

I therefore object to the MCC PPR Stage 2 plan and call for The Drip and Corner Gorges to be transferred into the Goulburn River National Park to ensure the long term protection and appropriate management and legal public access to this regionally significant recreational, educational and cultural river corridor.

Yours Sincerely

Paola Cassoni

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