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SUBMISSION OF OBJECTION

Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 – Preferred Project Report: No. 08-0135

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC) is a non-profit, non-government organisation representing more than 100 community environment groups across NSW dedicated to protecting and conserving NSW's wildlife, landscapes and natural resources.

NCC is lodging a submission of objection to the Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 Preferred Project because it will have major long term impacts on the local, regional and global environment and economy.

These impacts relate to the production of 29,585,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum for 24 years to 2036, the loss of 900 hectares of woodland ecosystems and cumulative destruction of water sources in the Upper Goulburn River catchment.

NCC also objects to the destruction of 148 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and the increased emissions of dust and air pollution, noise, heavy vehicle movements and social impacts proposed by this very large coal mining proposal.

NCC is particularly concerned that the proposal does not consider the addition of the Drip and Corner Gorge on the Goulburn River into the Goulburn River National Park as a suitable compensatory measure for the proposed loss of riparian corridors and woodland habitats, and subsidence of sandstone cliff lines in the immediate area.

The Drip and Corner Gorge or 'Great Dripping Gorge' has been identified by NCC as a significant natural icon under threat from mining in NSW.¹ This area is has been a favourite tourist destination in the Mid Western Region LGA for generations and deserves to be given permanent protection within the adjacent National Park.

NCC is very concerned that this popular area was converted from Crown Lease to freehold title at the end of 2010 and transferred to a private mining company. The issues of ongoing public access to these iconic natural features as well as the protection of their structural integrity from the impacts of mine subsidence into the future need to be urgently addressed.

An extension of the Goulburn River National Park is the best way to achieve this outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Pepe Clarke
Chief Executive Officer

¹ Nature Conservation Council (2010) *Icons Under Threat: Natural areas and threatened species at risk from mining and gas in NSW*, available online at: www.nccnsw.org.au/content/icons-under-threat