

20th February 2012-02

Dept Planning - Mining and Major Projects

Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08_0135

Submission for consideration

My family and I are regular visitors to the Mudgee region and have been doing so for the last 18 years. We frequently walk in the areas of the Goulburn River National Park and Munghorn Gap. Both of these unique and diverse habitats are under constant threat from the effects of open cut and long wall coal mining

I was horrified to hear that the "Drip and Corner Gorges" are about to be lost as a public amenity forever. Not only has our state government converted a crown lease to freehold in favour of the Moolarben Coal Mine, but Moolarben Coal have rejected a proposal for the gorges to be considered as an offset package and included as part of the Goulburn River National Park. In the overall mine scheme the gorge is a very small area. This area should not and cannot be considered for open cut or long wall mining as the potential impact to this river system will have irreversible consequences. Therefore the only logical usage would be as a bio diversity offset. The process of determination for Moolarben stage 2 should be open and transparent, with the Planning Assessment Commission holding public hearings.

The determination of Moolarben Stage 2 must include the safe guarding of the Drip and Corner Gorges to ensure the long term protection, appropriate management and legal public access to this regionally significant recreational, educational and cultural river corridor.

The public stake hold in this area is paramount. Future generations rely on us to make fully informed decisions.

Yours sincerely

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