

20th February 2012

Dept Planning – Mining and Major Projects

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

Submission for consideration

To whom it may concern:

I have been a regular visitor to the Mudgee region for 25 years and have strong connections with the community there, especially in the areas of the Goulburn River National Park. Over the past decade I have been distressed to observe the constant degradation of the Goulburn River from coal mining at Moolarben. I am now appalled to hear that the river area known as the Drip is about to be lost as a public amenity forever. This is an area of outstanding natural beauty, an ongoing part of Australia's natural and indeed cultural heritage. The state government has converted a crown lease to freehold in favour of the Moolarben Coal Mine, and Moorlarben Coal has seen fit to reject a proposal for this river area to be considered as an offset package and included as part of the Goulburn River National Park. I have seen with my own eyes the changes to the local environment in the Mudgee area and especially to the river, due to the ever-expanding coal mining industry. The area that I and many in the local community are claiming to be preserved is relatively small, but to preserve it will help to preserve the river. Does not this river, in this day and age in which governments are apparently so concerned for our vanishing waterways, have a right to be preserved from unnecessary degradation? Mudgee relies upon its beautiful natural surroundings as a basis for the tourism industry. The entire community has, at the very least, a profound economic interest in the preservation of this environment: far beyond the interests of multinational corporations who benefit, as we all know, from incredible tax advantages in this country. I call for the process of determination for Moolarben stage 2 to be open and transparent, with the Planning Assessment Commission holding public hearings. The determination of Moolarben Stage 2 must include the preservation of the Drip and of this scenic stretch of the river for future generations to enjoy.

Dr Bruce McIntyre

3/9-11 Renwick St

Marrickville 2204