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Mining and Major Industry Projects  
Dept of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

23rd February 2012

To Whom it May Concern  
RE: Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 \_ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08\_0135

I wish to make known to the NSW Department of Planning my objection to the above project which threatens the river gorge known as "The Drip", near Goulburn River National Park.  
I ask that the impact of this mining proposal be examined by an independent expert panel.

The Drip and surrounding areas are part of the heritage us all. I believe this unique and magical place should never be put at risk - for commercial gain or for any other reason.

If no individual were to set foot in this place for hundreds of years, it would not diminish the value of a deep and quiet river gorge which has been a source of permanent water, that is, of life, for many thousands of years for both human and non-human residents.

I have walked the gorge twice since moving to the Upper Hunter/Goulburn River area. I encourage visitors and locals alike to experience it. Permanent surface water in the Australian inland is a precious and rare resource, once lost it may never be regained.

I have always enjoyed wilderness but was especially moved when I noticed pathways alongside this river, where the stone had been worn smooth over the years. This was not in the patterns made by weather or water and to my mind could only have been caused by the passage of many, many bare feet over many thousands of years - I cannot believe that the pioneers, hikers and picnickers of the past two hundred years or so have been numerous enough to wear a path into the stone.

I have included a photograph of one of the waterholes and of the worn pathway over the stone to illustrate my point.

Can we not protect this place for the future and place it in a National Park?

Please allow the assumptions, assurances and strategies of a coal mining company to be scrutinised before The Drip is irretrievably lost.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Lesley Nixon

Below: Permanent Waterhole



Below: Pathway over stone

