Sara Wilson - Save the Drip & Corner Gorges for ALL of us.

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

Dear Sir/Madam

If ever there was proof that this mining boom is supreme madness, the irreplaceable natural wonders of the most special parts of the Goulburn River Gorge now belong to Moolarben Coal Mine.

Between the Goulbourn River Stone Cottages and the famous dripping cliff wall, The Drip, is the Corner Gorge - the walk between the two is stunning. Tourists and bushwalkers, locals and visitors, picnickers and photographers — all are overwhelmed by their grandeur and beauty. Of course these ought to be national treasures, protected as part of the adjoining Goulburn River National Park, and accessible for us all to enjoy. I had assumed they were.

Community, council and government had asked Moolarben to include the transfer of The Drip and Corner Gorges to the National Park as part of their offsets package.

BUT in Moolarben's recently released plans for its Stage Two open cut and underground mine expansion offset plans, the company have NOT done so.

This is something that the government should have mandated.

I 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.

I urge the Department of Planning to appoint an independent expert panel (PAC) to fully scrutinise the strategies, assumptions and actions.

These are areas that we should ALL be able to enjoy and the Govt should act to protect them for our future.

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