

Department of Planning - Mining and Major Projects  
Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 \_ Preferred Project Report  
Project No: 08\_0135

20 February 2012

Submission opposing the project

I strongly support the inclusion of The Drip and Corner Gorges into the Goulburn National Park.

There is great beauty in the upper reaches of the Goulburn River's water, banks, flood planes and gorges. Over many years I have walked along it's gently winding path, through it's sparkling sandstone gorges, and swam in its waterholes. It is majestic in both drought and in flood, and supports a great range of flora and fauna. My respect and appreciation for fragile Australian ecosystems has been significantly formed in these places that may be irrevocably lost; for what?

The conversion of the Drip and Corner Gorges from crown land into freehold land, now owned by Moolarben Coal Mine, was a retrograde and short-sighted step. Can the river be rehabilitated after it has been mined? Can short-term profit compensate for the loss of a long-term natural treasure?

Planning NSW should reject the proposed destruction of the upper reaches of the Goulburn River. Moolarben Coal Mine should at minimum demonstrate it's goodwill by forgoing a fraction of its profit for the long-term benefit of the environment, local residents and the people of NSW.

I support the call for the Department of Planning to appoint an independent expert panel to fully assess the strategies, assumptions and actions of the proposed project.

Yours sincerely

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