

20th February 2012

PO Box 1324
MUDGEES NSW 2850

Mining and Major Industry Projects
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sirs/Madams

**RE: MOOLARBEN COAL COMPLEX STAGE 2
PREFERRED PROJECT REPORT
PROJECT NO. 08-0135**

I am writing this letter to object to the above project for the reasons set out below and for personal reasons which I will outline.

It has come to my attention that the Drip (and walking track) plus southern cliff of the Corner Gorge (formerly a Crown Lease) has been converted to freehold title and is now fully owned by the Moolarben Coal Mine (80% Yancoal).

I also believe that "the company was asked by community, council and government to include The Drip and Corner Gorges in its proposed 'offset package' as partial compensation for loss of biodiversity, riparian habitat and community amenity but rejected the proposal".

Ulan, Wilpinjong and Moolarben Stage 1 mega mines have already caused major devastation to the catchment and it looks like it's only the beginning.

My family has had the opportunity to enjoy wonderful times at the Goulburn River north of Mudgee in NSW. We are lucky enough to have lived in Mudgee for the last 30 years having moved from Sydney to give our children and ourselves the benefit of living in what we believe is one of the most beautiful parts of the country and the world.

It is important to live in a place to appreciate it and understand it, and you need to surround yourself with the bush, to sit and listen, to realize what it is that connects us to the land and inhabitants of this wonderful place, which of course, includes all living things.

Unfortunately humankind is greedy and over the years, large powerful companies driven by \$\$\$\$ have overstepped fair and reasonable boundaries by intruding on the established lives of communities, offering (in the name of progress and for the so called good of the country and economy) obscene amounts of money to entice workers away from such communities leaving

depleted work forces in small business districts as their employees head for "the mines" for employment.

Many people have spent their lives in small communities like Mudgee, doing their best to provide a sound and secure place for their children to grow, in an environment that has been minimally impacted by "negative progress". To threaten this environment by taking away the very things that people have spent their lives caring for is to destroy their souls by breaking their spirits which is completely unfair and should not be allowed to continue.

How can there be any justification to threaten in any way the heritage and sustained permanency of such places as The Drip and Corner Gorges. Once violated, such places cannot recover and adjoining regions (in fact all regions are interconnected when it comes to water and habitat) will suffer.

We do not want to see this here or anywhere!

To wander along the spectacular Goulburn River and witness the awesome towering cliffs, waterfalls, caves and vegetation; to listen to the silence broken by the occasional sound of nature (which is almost taken for granted by those of us lucky enough to have an appreciation of the outdoors) is like experiencing what life must have been on the planet before "civilization" commenced its relentless and thoughtless destruction.

We are all connected as the land is connected, so please use some common sense and influence decision makers, for the sake of ALL, that The Drip and Corner Gorges are included in the adjoining Goulburn River National Park ensuring ongoing public access and the long term protection and management of this magnificent river corridor.

Please do not look at land masses as just that (as on a map) ... they represent so much more than what lies beneath ...

Go and see for yourselves, look and learn ... understand what life is about – not just "for now for some", but for all time for all (or however long the planet can survive – which is in our hands).

What we do now, as we already know, has such impacts on the future. We must make decisions now that ensure that we leave this place better than we have been fortunate enough to find it in our lifetime.

All living things deserve our respect – this planet will only survive if we care for it. It has taken so long to become what it is today we can't afford and should not want to jeopardise its future.

Helen Cox

