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Mining and Major Industry Projects  
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**Objection to the Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 \_ Preferred Project Report:  
Project No: 08\_0135**

I am shocked to learn that the "Drip and Corner Gorges" are about to be lost as a public amenity forever. I cannot believe that our State government has converted a crown lease to freehold in favour of the Moolarben Coal Mine, but Moolarben Coal have rejected a proposal for the gorges to be considered as an offset package and included as part of the Goulburn River National Park.

For more than 20 years I have been a regular visitor to the Mudgee area. I have spent much time with friends and family visiting and walking in areas around Mudgee and this includes The Drip and Corner Gorge. This area is a unique, it has diverse habitats and is a significant cultural landscape for the local Aboriginal community.

The Drip and Corner Gorge are under constant threat from the effects of mining and should not be considered for open cut or long wall mining as the potential impact to the this river system will have irreversible consequences. Therefore the only logical usage would be as a bio diversity offset.

The process of determination for Moolarben stage 2 should be open and transparent, with the Planning Assessment Commission holding public hearings.

The determination of Moolarben Stage 2 must include the safe guarding of the Drip and Corner Gorge to ensure the long-term protection, appropriate management and legal public access to this regionally significant recreational, educational and cultural river corridor.

The Drip and Corner Gorges must be protected and preserved and accessible to the public.

Yours faithfully

Janet Lewis

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