

**Sara Wilson - SUBMISSION**

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**Date:** 2/17/2012 5:07 PM  
**Subject:** SUBMISSION  
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I am objecting to the STAGE 2 plans for open cut and underground mine expansion. My objections are

- The offset package does not include the culturally and scenically significant river corridor known as The Drip and Corner Gorges securing its long term protection, appropriate management and on going public access.
- The permanent damage (at least 100 years) to the Goulburn River and connected groundwater system is unacceptable
- Estimated cumulative water use by the three coal mines approximately 30-40ML/day (10-12 Gigalitre/annum)
- Water use for just the Moolarben Mine estimated to be 10.55ML/day (3850 ML/annum).
- Water deficit for 23 of 24 years (up to 1990ML extra water required)
- No confidence that the groundwater modelling accurately predicts water impacts - there are significant disparities between Moolarben and Ulan Coal Mines groundwater assessments.
- Water for coal washing should be first sourced from Ulan Coal Mine surplus groundwater before any extraction from the Northern Borefield (adjacent to the Goulburn River).
- Disturbance footprint of 1546 has of native vegetation including 4.1 kms of Murragamba creek, 4.1 kms of eastern creek and a direct impact on over 148 archaeological sites ( from scatters to rock shelters).
- Biodiversity offsets are located outside the Hunter Valley catchment, do not represent "like for like" nor replace the net loss to the bio-region [or the east west vegetation corridor connecting the coastal forest to the western woodlands](#).
- Excessive noise levels [e.g](#) location of the conveyor on top of ridge (must be sound attenuated and set lower [ed](#) on landscape to minimise noise dispersal)
- Production 17Mt coal or 23.7 Million tonnes (CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-e</sup>) year of Greenhouse Gases fuelling further climate instability
- Clearing of additional 900 has of native forest (123ha EEC Box Woodland)

These last two points should be fairly clear to even a layperson that the negative impacts would be far reaching and irreversible damage that is unacceptable.

The Drip and Corner Gorges is a very beautiful place and should be kept for future generations not ruined for all time. This place is important to people far across Australia not just the local community and needs to be set aside and protected.

Yours sincerely,

Jill Lawsen.