

Sara Wilson - Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report

From: Jack McPhee <jack.mcphee@uon.edu.au>
To: "plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au" <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 2/15/2012 7:51 PM
Subject: Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report

To the officers and managers in the Department of Planning,

I strongly urge you to reassess current mining projects ...underway in this beautiful part of our country and include The Drip and Corner Gorges in the Goulburn River National Park.

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.

The Drip (and walking track) and southern cliff of the Corner Gorge is now in the ownership (freehold title) of the Moolarben Coal Mine (was formerly a Crown Lease).

The company should have included The Drip and Corner Gorges in its proposed "offset package" as partial compensation for loss of biodiversity, riparian habitat and community amenity. See www.savethedrip.com

The Drip and Corner Gorges to be incorporated into the adjoining Goulburn River National Park. This would have ensured the long term protection, appropriate management and on going public access to this scenic, recreational and culturally significant area.

Summary of impacts

Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report

- 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 indicates approximately 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 additional extraction from the Northern Borefield (adjacent to the Goulburn River).
- Clearing of over 900 has of native forest (123ha EEC Box Woodland)
- Disturbance footprint of 1546 has of native vegetation including 4.1 kms of Murrumbidgee creek, 4.1 kms of eastern creek and a direct impact on over 148 archaeological sites.
- Biodiversity offsets are located outside the Hunter Valley catchment, do not represent "like for like" nor replace the net loss to the bio-region
- Production 17Mt coal or 23.7 Million tonnes (co2-e) year of Greenhouse Gases fuelling further climate instability

- Excessive noise levels due to the location of the conveyor on top of ridge (must be sound attenuated and set lower on landscape to minimise noise dispersal)

Department of Planning needs to appoint an independent expert panel or Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) to fully scrutinise the strategies, assumptions and actions.

Yours sincerely,
J J McPhee