

**Sara Wilson - Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 - PPR - Poject No: 08-0134**

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**From:** "Karolyn Graham" <karolynmg@skymesh.com.au>  
**To:** <plan\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 2/23/2012 6:42 PM  
**Subject:** Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 - PPR - Poject No: 08-0134  
**CC:** <savethedrip@mdeg.org.au>, "zoe wheat" <zoe wheat99@gmail.com>

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Dear Sir/Madam,

**We are writing to you to object to the MCC PPR Stage 2 Plan, and are calling for the area known as The Drip and Corner Gorge to be tranfered to the Goulburn River National Park to ensure the long term protection, appropriate management and legal public access to this regionally significant cultural, educational and recreational river corridor.**

Already the coal mining boom, while economically beneficial to NSW, has caused major and unrecoverable devastation to the local catchment areas, and Ulan, Wilpinjong and Moolarban Mines are planning even further expansion.

The most significant impacts to the local environment, and the people of the Mudgee area and beyond who currently enjoy and respect the pristine area of The Drip and Corner Gorge, if MCC PPR Stage 2 is allowed to go ahead as planned will be:

- a. The offset package does not include the culturally and scenically significant area of The Drip and Corner Gorge, thus not securing its long term protection, management and public access.
- b. The threat of permanent damage to the Goulburn River and connected ground water system, especially in an area reliant, to a great extent, on bore water, is unacceptable.
- c. Water use for the three local mines is estimated at 30-40ML per day, which must lead to a water deficit in the near future.
- d. We have no confidence in the ground water modelling accurately predicting water impacts, as there are significant disparities between the Moolarban and Ulan Coal Mines groundwater impact assessments.
- e. MCC PPR Stage 2 requires the clearing of an additional 900 hectares of native forest, and there will be a disturbance footprint of 1450 hectares of native vegetation, including 4 km of Murragamba Creek, 4 km of Eastern Creek and a direct impact on nearly 150 significant native archaeological sites.

**We call on the Department of Planning to appoint an independent expert panel to fully scrutinise the strategies, assumptions and actions associated with the Moolarban Coal Complex Stage 2 Projected Project Report, and their aquisition of The Drip (and walking track) and the southern cliff of the Corner Gorge.**

Yours sincerely,

Karolyn and John Graham  
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