

24 February 2012

Mining and Major Industry Projects  
Dept of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 \_ Preferred Project Report:  
Project No: 08\_0135

I wish to lodge an objection in reference to the above project.

First and foremost I am extremely concerned at the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that will be generated by Moolarben Coal Mine. Production of 23.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year is just completely unacceptable. I have grandchildren and I am fearful of the future they will inherit. We must look for alternatives to burning fossil fuels for our energy needs, not increase climate instability (which is already happening) and ultimately irreversible climate change.

I am upset at the rejection of the Goulburn River gorges as offsets from your mining proposal. These are iconic and incredibly beautiful. The Great Dripping Wall and the Corner Gorges are also sacred sites for indigenous Australians. Generations of people have visited these sites and they are landmark attractions of the Mid-Western Regional Council area. It is ludicrous that they do not have long term protection, security of public access and appropriate management.

It also disturbs me that probably almost 150 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites will be affected by this mining project. I have respect for indigenous beliefs and the constant destruction of their sacred areas is repugnant to me.

The endangered ecological community of Box Woodland is about one per cent of what it was in 1788. Under this proposal an area of 900 hectares of native forest will be cleared, including 123 ha of the Box Woodland. This is unacceptable.

Biodiversity offsets should be located in the same catchment or bio-region where the destruction of habitat will take place. It is not appropriate to locate them in different bio-regions.

I would like to address some of the water issues that are involved in this proposal.

There is a world of difference between Moolarben and Ulan Coal Mines groundwater assessments. This leads me to question the accuracy of the groundwater modelling.

The Goulburn River National Park shares a common boundary with Moolarben's northern borefield, and will be adversely affected by the dewatering by the mine. Surplus

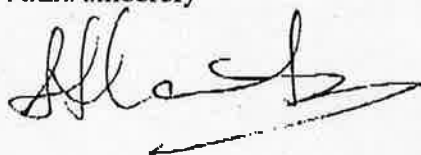
groundwater from Ulan Coal Mine should be used first for mining processes before extracting water from this borefield.

No recognition has been given to the cumulative effects of the three major mines in the area - Ulan, Wilpinjong and Moolarben. The effect on groundwater, the Goulburn River and ultimately the Upper Hunter catchment is profound and will last for a century at least.

There is scant regard for our water resources.

I call on the Department of Planning to appoint an independent expert panel or alternatively a Planning Assessment Commission to fully investigate and consider the assumptions, strategies and actions involved in this proposal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. Hails', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lesley Hails  
38 Denison St  
Mudgee NSW 2850