

Sara Wilson - Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08_0135

From: "Marianne Porteners" <mariport@ozemail.com.au>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 2/21/2012 12:08 PM
Subject: Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08_0135
CC: <savethedrip@mdeg.org.au>, <mariport@ozemail.com.au>

Dear Planning Minister,

I object to the MCC PPR Stage 2 plan and call for The Drip and Corner Gorges to be transferred into the <?xml:namespace prefix = st1 ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:smarttags" />GoulburnRiverNational Park to ensure the long term protection and appropriate management and legal public access to this regionally significant recreational, educational and cultural river corridor.

<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

As a professional ecologist and botanist with a strong grounding in environmental science, management and conservation, I would like to see the Department of Planning appoint an independent expert panel (PAC) to fully scrutinise the strategies, assumptions and actions. I have also personally spent much time in this beautiful area and wish to see it preserved once and for all within the NSW conservation reserve system, for current and future generations.

I am deeply concerned at the major devastation caused by the coal mining boom to the catchment with the Ulan, Wilinjong and Moolarben Stage 1 mega mines.

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 GoulburnRiver and connected groundwater system is unacceptable
- Estimated cumulative water use by the three coal mines approximately 30-40ML/day (10-12 Gialitre/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 GoulburnRiver).

- Clearing of additional 900 has of native forest (123ha EEC Box Woodland)
- 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 HunterValley 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.
- Production 17Mt coal or 23.7 Million tonnes (co₂^{-e}) year of Greenhouse Gases fuelling further climate instability
- Excessive noise levels e.g location of the conveyor on top of ridge (must be sound attenuated and set lowered on landscape to minimise noise dispersal)

Sincerely, Marianne F. Porteners

Marianne Porteners Environmental Consulting

ABN 75 157 966 993

Mobile: 0467 552456 **Email:** mariport@ozemail.com.au