

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

From: upperhunterwaterkeepers <uhwaterkeepers.ma@gmail.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 2/21/2012 9:35 PM
Subject: Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project: Project No: 08_0135
CC: <savethedrip@mdeg.org.au>

Dear Sir/Madam,

I spent my youth in the area in question and am horrified to learn that the Moolarben Coal Mine do not intend to transfer the Drip and Corner Gorges to the Goulburn River National Park. It will be shame on you and forever on our grandchildren if you stupid people don't see the reason for protecting national treasures and ecological bio-regions for future generations. You are pandering to short-lived economic vandalism if you allow these areas to be taken over by (foreign) mining interests. If just half the following statements bear fruit and truth then you should be damned forever if you allow it!!!

- 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 gigalitres/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).
- Clearing of additional 900ha of native forest (123ha EEC Box Woodland)
- Disturbance footprint of 1546 ha of native vegetation including 4.1 km of Murragamba Creek, 4.1 km 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.
- Production 17 million tonnes of coal or 23.7 million tonnes CO₂-equivalent/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).

Yours

Murray Armstrong