

Sara Wilson - Submission of objection to Moolarben Stage 2 coal expansion

Project No: 08_0135

From: Nerida Wales <nerida_wales@hotmail.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 2/12/2012 10:20 PM
Subject: Submission of objection to Moolarben Stage 2 coal expansion Project No: 08_0135

Dear to whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the above proposal to raise my objection to this proposal. The environmental sacrifice being made does not justify the short term gain to that field. The expansion project does not sufficiently mitigate secondary impacts and based on the concerns raised below I feel that the project is unfit to proceed.

- The offset package fails to 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.
- Clearing of over 900 has of native forest (123ha EEC Box Woodland).
- Biodiversity offsets are located outside the Hunter Valley catchment, do not represent 'like for like' nor replace the net loss to the bio-region
- 148 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites are likely to be impacted
- Production 17Mt coal or 23.7 Million tonnes (co₂^{-e}) year of Greenhouse Gases fueling further climate instability
- The permanent damage (at least 100 years) to the Goulburn River and connected groundwater system is unacceptable
- No confidence that the groundwater modelling accurately predicts water impacts - there are significant disparities between Moolarben and Ulan Coal Mines groundwater assessments.
- Water balance indicates approximately 3850 ML/annum of water required (10.55ML/day)
- Water deficit for 23 of 24 years (up to 1990ML extra water required)
- 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).
- 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)
- The Voluntary Payment Agreement offered to Mid Western Region Council is only \$1.365 m and is inadequate
 - The increased pressure on housing and services in the Mudgee area has not been addressed

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

I hope that these views are being considered and acted upon accordingly. This country will belong to our grandchildren and is not ours to destroy.

Kind Regards,

Nerida