

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

From: "Holy Trinity Merriwa" <merriwa.anglican@bigpond.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 2/17/2012 3:03 PM
Subject: Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08_0135
CC: <savethedrip@mdeg.org.au>

To : Department of Planning - Mining and Major Projects
 RE: Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08_0135
 Dear Sir/Madam,

I believe the Moolarben Coal Mine has just released its revised STAGE 2 plans for open cut and underground mine expansion.

Formerly on Crown Lease the Drip and Corner Gorges instead of being transferred into the adjoining Goulburn River National Park, it has been converted to freehold title and is now fully owned by the Moolarben Coal Mine (80% Yancoal)

Instead of using the land as an "offset package" as partial compensation for loss of biodiversity, riparian habitat and community amenity, they have rejected the proposal which will prohibit public access and the long term protection and management of this magnificent river corridor.

I am joining my voice with both local and the increasingly wide public support for the inclusion of the Drip and Corner Gorges into the adjoining Goulburn River National Park.

I wish you will act to ensure the long term protection and appropriate management and legal public access to this regionally significant recreational, educational and cultural river corridor.

We have visited the Gorge and have found nothing as beautiful and diverse in the area. Putting our feet in the Goulburn River and sitting watching the beauty of creation around us is valuable beyond a dollar value.

Will you please appoint an independent expert panel (PAC) to fully scrutinise the strategies, assumptions and actions.

My fears are that

- The permanent damage to the Goulburn River and connected groundwater system will be devastating and permanent and that this is unacceptable
- The local farming communities will not be able to compete with the estimated cumulative water use by the three coal mines approximately 30-40ML/day (10-12 Gigalitre/annum) especially in drought conditions
- 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)
- I would propose that 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).
- I am most disturbed by the clearing of additional 900 has of native forest (123ha

EEC Box Woodland) and the further destruction of 1546 ha's 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).

- I am concerned that the 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.

Let me close with a photograph of this beautiful and unique area.

Yours sincerely,

Rev'd Mandy Wheatley

[The Drip and Corner Gorges - Goulburn River](#)



The Reverend Mandy Wheatley

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It is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4.6