

Objection to the Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08_0135
Due Friday 24 Feb 2012

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Dept of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
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Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to make this personal submission in objection to the Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 Preferred Project Plan.

It is essential that **The Drip** and **Corner Gorges** are made part of Moolarben Coal Mines biodiversity offset package and that they are transferred to and become part of the Goulburn River National Park.

This ancient, unique, beautiful and culturally significant river corridor area **must** be included in the Goulburn River National Park and **must** be protected from the impacts of mining.

Moolarben Coal Mine indicates that it has no plans to mine in the immediate area around The Drip and Corner Gorges but even with current plans it admits that it is *unlikely* that high level seepages such as the Drip will be impacted by Moolarben Coal Mine with their current plan. Surely '*unlikely*' leaves too much doubt for an area of such cultural and heritage importance as The Drip.

The significant disparities between the Moolarben and Ulan Coal Mines groundwater assessments is proof enough of the lack of accurate data regarding groundwater flow in the area. Without real-time baseline measurements how can the impacts both short and long term on ground water be accurately predicted.

Further pollution and damage to the Goulburn River is totally unacceptable. The River flows through the pristine Goulburn River National Park downstream from Moolarben Coal Mine. Incredibly, there is no monitoring or knowledge of the impacts of mining pollution on the species diverse and protected wildlife and vegetation of this beautiful National Park.

Moolarben has been implored by local community and Council to include The Drip and Corner Gorges in their offset package as some compensation for the loss of biodiversity, riparian habitat and community amenity but unfortunately have rejected the proposal.

Please consider these nationally significant icons **and** the Goulburn River and its connected groundwater system and enable them some protection from the impacts of mining.

Yours faithfully



Robbin Binks

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