

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

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Date: 2/21/2012 1:15 PM
Subject: Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08_0135
CC: <savethedrip@mdeg.org.au>

To : Dept Planning – Mining and Major Projects

RE: Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08_0135

ATTENTION: I send this email to ask the Department of Planning to take serious action and appoint an independent expert panel (PAC) to fully scrutinise the strategies, assumptions and actions: including both the environmental and community impacts of the Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 Project No: 08_0135.

Dear Sir/Madam, as a concerned citizen and member of the community of Gulgong and its surrounds, it is with great concern that I am writing this email to ask you to re-consider the unfortunate problems within the surprisingly ineffectual offset package of the Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report.

Below are a list of fundamental concerns:

- 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 Gigalitre/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 900 hect of native forest (123ha EEC Box Woodland)
- Disturbance footprint of 1546 has of native vegetation including 4.1 kms of Murrumbidgee 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 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 17Mt coal or 23.7 Million tonnes (co2-e) year of Greenhouse Gases fuelling further climate instability
- Excessive noise levels eg location of the conveyor on top of ridge (must be sound attenuated and set lowered on landscape to minimise noise dispersal)

My family have lived in this area for many generations and we look forward to being able to hand our communities and their important heritage sites to our grandchildren. Regardless of foreign investors needs I would like those grandchildren to be able to grow healthy and safe in my community. Further, I would hope that both my grandchildren and yours will take pride in the sorts of decisions that are being made in our communities at this time. I feel very strongly that the brutalisation of this site, and other Indigenous Heritage sites are a blatant violation of those hopes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rohnda Hawtin
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