

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

From: Sharyn Munro <sharyn@sharynmunro.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 2/19/2012 12:54 PM
Subject: Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08_0135
CC: <savethedrip@mdeg.org.au>

To Dept of Planning: re Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08_0135

It is bad enough that the irreplaceable natural wonders of the most special parts of the Goulburn River Gorge were ever privatised. They are national treasures.

It is worse that they now belong to Moolarben Coal Mine, 80% owned by Yancoal Australia, that is, Yanzhou, ultimately owned by the Shendong Provincial Government in China.

Between the Corner Gorge and the famous dripping cliff wall, The Drip, the river and the gorge is simply stunning. Tourists and bushwalkers, locals and visitors, picnickers and photographers – all are overwhelmed by their grandeur and beauty.

Of course these ought to be protected as part of the adjoining Goulburn River National Park, and accessible for us all to enjoy.

Community, council and government had asked the company to include the transfer of The Drip and Corner Gorges to the National Park, as part of their offsets package.

BUT in Moolarben's recently released plans for its Stage Two open cut and underground mine expansion offset plans, the company have NOT done so.
 This is something that Planning should have mandated.

- I ask that you restore some sanity to the process and appoint an independent expert panel (PAC) to fully scrutinise the strategies, assumptions and actions involved in this MCC PPR Stage 2 plan.
- I vigorously object to the MCC PPR Stage 2 plan and call for The Drip and Corner Gorges to be transferred into the Goulburn River National Park.

* I also object to the MCC PPR Stage 2 plan on the grounds of:

- The permanent damage (at least 100 years) to the Goulburn River and connected groundwater system;
- The unacceptable excessive water use by the Moolarben Mine estimated to be 10.55ML/day (3850 ML/annum) and the cumulative water use by the three coal mines approximately 30-40ML/day (10-12 Gigalitre/annum);
- Lack of confidence that the groundwater modelling accurately predicts water impacts;
- Clearing of additional 900 has of native forest (123ha EEC Box Woodland);
- Biodiversity offsets are located outside the Hunter Valley catchment, do not replace the net loss to the bio-region or the east west vegetation corridor connecting the coastal forest to the western woodlands;
- 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)– this is not an industrial area, it is adjacent to a national park!

and not least, for my grandchildren's sake, you must not approve

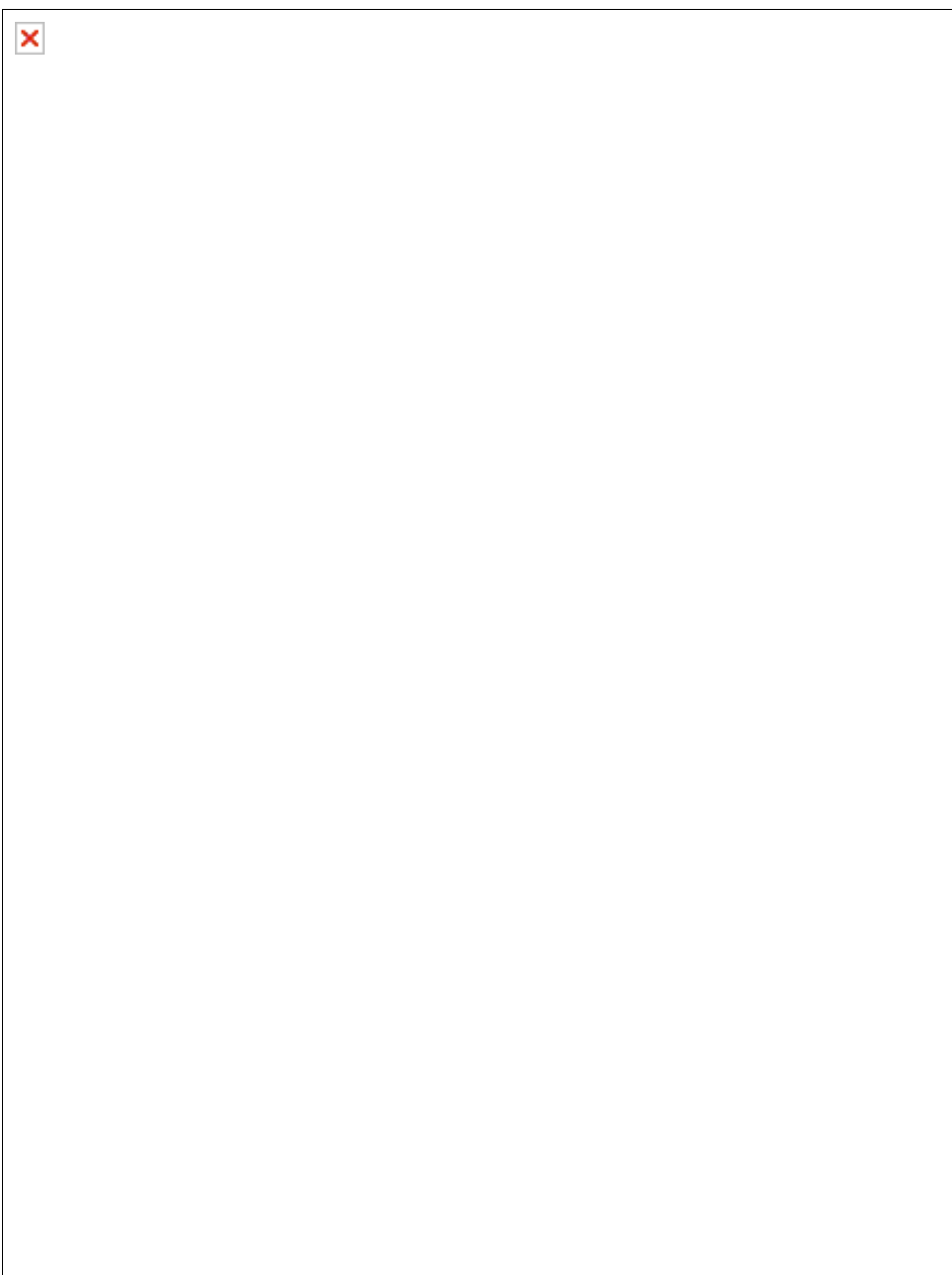
– The production 17Mt coal or 23.7 Million tonnes (CO₂^e) year of greenhouse gases fuelling further climate chaos.

Your sincerely

Sharyn Munro

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Please have your say, **objecting to the MCC PPR Stage 2 plan and calling for The Drip**

and Corner Gorges to be transferred into the Goulburn River National Park to ensure the long term protection and appropriate management and legal public access to this regionally significant recreational, educational and cultural river corridor.

Ask the Department of Planning appoint an independent expert panel (PAC) to fully scrutinise the strategies, assumptions and actions.

The Drip and Corner Gorges - Goulburn River



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

The Moolarben Stage 2 Preferred Project Report (PPR) *offset package* does not include

The Drip and Corner Gorges being transferred into the adjoining Goulburn River National Park.

- ensuring on going public access and the long term protection and management of this magnificent river corridor.

The Drip (and walking track) and southern cliff of the Corner Gorge was converted to freehold title (privatised) and is now fully owned by the Moolarben Coal Mine (80% Yancoal) (was formerly a Crown Lease).

The company **was asked by community, council and government (OEH & Planning) to include The Drip and Corner Gorges in its proposed “offset package” as partial compensation for loss of biodiversity, riparian habitat and community amenity but rejected the proposal.**

This is at a critical stage - we need to show once again there is wide public support for the inclusion of The Drip and Corner Gorges into the adjoining Goulburn River National Park.

Objecting to the MCC PPR Stage 2 plan and calling for The Drip and Corner Gorges to be transferred into the Goulburn River National Park to ensure the long term protection and appropriate management and legal public access to this regionally significant recreational, educational and cultural river corridor.

And if you have time add a few words why you personally value this river corridor.....

DUE Friday 24 February (Friday week).....

Email:

plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

To : Dept Planning - Mining and Major Projects

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

Ask Department of Planning appoint an independent expert panel (PAC) to fully scrutinise the strategies, assumptions and actions.

Additional Notes:

The coal mining boom has caused major devastation to the catchment with the Ulan, Wilpinjong and Moolarben Stage 1 mega

mines. But they are still planning more...

Full project description is at: www.Moolarbencoal.com.au or

<http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/development-categories/mining--petroleum--extractive-industries/mining/>

Summary of impacts: Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->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.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The permanent damage (at least 100 years) to the Goulburn River and connected groundwater system is unacceptable
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Estimated cumulative water use by the three coal mines approximately 30-40ML/day (10-12 Gigalitre/annum)
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Water use for just the Moolarben Mine estimated to be 10.55ML/day (3850 ML/annum).
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Water deficit for 23 of 24 years (up to 1990ML extra water required)
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->No confidence that the groundwater modelling accurately predicts water impacts - there are significant disparities between Moolarben and Ulan Coal Mines groundwater assessments.

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->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).
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Clearing of additional 900 has of native forest (123ha EEC Box Woodland)
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->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).
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->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.](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Production 17Mt coal or 23.7 Million tonnes (co₂⁻ ^e) year of Greenhouse Gases fuelling further climate instability
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Excessive noise levels [e.g](#) location of the conveyor on top of ridge (must be sound attenuated and set lower[ed](#) on landscape to minimise noise dispersal)