

20th February 2012-02

Dept Planning - Mining and Major Projects

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

Submission for consideration

I am truly alarmed to be informed that the ancient, unique and beautiful Drip and Corner Gorges are about to be destroyed and lost as a public amenity for the family of, and tourists to, NSW forever.

I have visited and enjoyed this unique place on many occasions since the 1980s. I and many friends have frequently walked in the areas of the Goulburn River National Park. Despite their ancient beauty, these unique and diverse habitats have been under constant threat from the effects of open cut and long wall coal mining.

I am shocked to learn that not only has the O'Farrell-Stoner Government converted a crown lease to freehold in favour of the Moolarben Coal Mine, but Moorlarben Coal have rejected a proposal for the gorges to be considered as an offset package and included as part of the Goulburn River National Park.

In the overall mine scheme the gorge is a very small area. This area should not be considered for open cut or long wall mining as the potential impact to the existing river system will have irreversible consequences - and a disastrous impact for the wildlife of the neighbouring national park and properties downstream. The only logical usage would be as a bio diversity offset.

The process of determination for Moolarben Stage 2 should be open and transparent, with the Planning Assessment Commission holding public hearings. The determination of Moolarben Stage 2 must include the safeguarding of the Drip and Corner Gorges to ensure the long term protection, appropriate management and legal public access to this regionally significant recreational, educational and cultural river corridor.

I try to understand the mining industries unquenchable thirst for profit, and the NSW government's need for revenue, but if this special part of NSW goes and when the money is spent, what's left? The Drip and Corner gorge, which have been there for thousands of years will be gone forever.

Must the O'Farrell-Stoner Government destroy such a landscape? Is there no place for preserving such beauty for future generations? Is there no place even for leaving the mineral wealth in our soil to benefit future generations?

The public stakehold in this area is paramount. Future generations rely on us to make fully informed decisions.

Y
ours sincerely

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CC: The Office of the Premier of NSW, the Hon. Barry O'Farrell, MP.