

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

From: "Paterson, Stephen" <Stephen.Paterson@wcc.nsw.gov.au>
To: "plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au" <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 2/21/2012 3:24 PM
Subject: Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08_0135
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21 February 2012.

NSW Dept OF Planning – Mining and Major Projects

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you with great concern regarding an issue which will have a most detrimental impact on the natural environment in the area known as "The Drip and Corner Gorges".

I have visited this area for the past 32 years and along with many of my friends and family from Sydney have enjoyed the beauty of this specific area, and the Goulburn River National Park and Munghorn Gap generally.

In our own way we have contributed significantly over many years to the local economy by way of hotel accommodation, visiting local restaurants, purchasing local products etc. The reason that so many of my friends and family go to the Mudgee area is to visit these areas of irreplaceable natural beauty. We do not go to visit mining sites.

I have watched the mines encroach on these areas of natural resources with alarm for many years. It is a measure of small comfort that the National Park exists and hopefully can protect at least a part of the natural environment. It is incomprehensible to me as to why "The Drip and the Corner Gorges", which was a under a Crown Lease, was converted to a freehold title owned by the Moolarben Coal Mine.

It is my understanding that the Moolarben Coal Mine have proposed an "offset package" as part of its Stage 2 plans for open cut and underground mine expansion. I note that this Moolarben Stage 2 Preferred Project Report (PPR) offset package does not include a proposal for "The Drip and Corner Gorges" to be incorporated into the adjoining Goulburn River National Park. **It would seem imperative that "The Drip and Corner Gorges" be included in the offset package and that they are in fact protected by their incorporation into the Goulburn River National Park.**

The standard of living of Australians does not only involve economic development, but access to and preservation of our national heritage. I strongly object to the transfer of control of "The Drip and the Corner Gorge" to the Moolarben Coal Mine as I have great concerns regarding the protection of these areas. The logical and appropriate step would be to include "The Drip and the Corner Gorge" into the Goulburn River National Park to preserve this important are, to allow its proper management by the National Park, and to allow visitors, such as myself and extended network or friends and family, to continue to enjoy the benefits of such an important location.

I am also aware of the impact mining has already had on the Goulburn River and would emphasize that the area in question should never be considered for mining purposes whether that be open cut or long wall due to the drastic consequences for the river system, and the whole local eco-system .

“The Drip and the Corner Gorge” do not represent a large part of the area under the control of the Moolarben Coal Mine.

It would seem a “fair compromise”, and a sign of respect and recognition by both the Government and the Moolarben Coal Mine regarding the genuine concern people have for this area, for its **inclusion in the Goulburn River National Park.**

Yours Sincerely.

Stephen J Paterson (Solicitor)
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