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CC: <savethedrip@mdeg.org.au>
Date: 2/20/2012 8:21 pm
Subject: Objection to Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08_0135

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly urge you to reassess current mining projects in the Goulburn River National Park (The Drip and Corner Gorges). I object to the MCC PPR Stage 2 plan for the following reasons.

- 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 indicates approximately 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 additional extraction from the Northern Borefield (adjacent to the Goulburn River).
- Clearing of over 900 has of native forest (123ha EEC Box Woodland)
- Disturbance footprint of 1546 has of native vegetation including 4.1 kms of Murragamba creek, 4.1 kms of eastern creek and a direct impact on over 148 archaeological sites.
- Biodiversity offsets are located outside the Hunter Valley catchment, do not represent "like for like" nor replace the net loss to the bio-region
- Production 17Mt coal or 23.7 Million tonnes (co2-e) year of Greenhouse Gases fuelling further climate instability
- Excessive noise levels due to the location of the conveyor on top of ridge (must be sound attenuated and set lower on landscape to minimise noise dispersal)

The Department of Planning needs to appoint an independent expert

panel or Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) to fully scrutinise their strategies, assumptions and actions.

Yours sincerely,

Tara Imrie

Newtown, NSW, Australia