

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

From: "Richard Bates" <richardbates@aapt.net.au>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 3/1/2012 3:22 PM
Subject: Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report:Project No: 08_0135

Dear Department of Planning,

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

Include The Drip and Corner Gorge in the Goulburn River National Park

The Drip and Corner Gorge are part of a river corridor that is culturally and aesthetically significant to the region and used for recreational and educational purposes. The Drip (and walking track) and southern cliff of the Corner Gorge, formerly Crown Lease land, was recently converted to freehold title (privatised) and is now fully owned by the Moolarben Coal Mine (80% Yancoal). Moolarben Coal Mine has just released its revised STAGE 2 plans for open cut and underground mine expansion. 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. The current Moolarben Stage 2 Preferred Project Report (PPR) (Project Number: 08_0135) offset package DOES NOT include The Drip and Corner Gorges being transferred into the adjoining Goulburn River National Park. It therefore does not ensure ongoing public access and the long term protection and management of this magnificent river corridor.

This is a critical stage – we want to show once again there is widespread public support for the inclusion of The Drip and Corner Gorges into the adjoining Goulburn River National Park in order to ensure ongoing public access and its long term protection and management.

Sincerely,

Richard Bates

Tomerong NSW
