

From: susan pockley <pockley.susan@gmail.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
CC: <savethedrip@mdeg.org.au>
Date: 3/5/2012 10:49 am
Subject: Coal mining in the Goulbourn Catchment - Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2

This has just come to my attention and I ask that my response be included in your stats.

This is a uniquely beautiful & diverse water system, a precious commodity in Australia.

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

PLEASE NOTE:

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 estimated to be 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 any extraction from the Northern Borefield (adjacent to the Goulburn River).
- Clearing of additional 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 (from scatters to rock shelters).
- 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.
- Production 17Mt coal or 23.7 Million tonnes (co2-e) year of Greenhouse Gases fuelling further climate instability
- 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)

Susan Pockley