

## Sara Wilson - Moolarben Stage 2 Planning Process

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**To:** "plan\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au" <plan\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 3/1/2012 8:08 AM  
**Subject:** Moolarben Stage 2 Planning Process  
**CC:** Hannah McCauley <hannah.mccauley@live.com.au>, Susan Bradley <susieb222@hotmail.com>

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Dear Department of Planning,

Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 \_ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08\_0135, Including '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, including the 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 – and I wish to be part of the growing community swell that is showing 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.

The Mining industry is currently quite actively purporting themselves in the press as good community neighbours and partners with the local communities and local government Councils, using world standard mining operations to deliver the minerals whilst protecting the local environment in a responsible and sustainable manner, yet here is a fine example of how the mining industry is purely focussed on the extraction and sale of the minerals from the ground over the expense of everything else. They will mine and leave the local communities when their targets are reached and the mines deplete to un-financially sustainable levels but the local community is left to live with the legacy of loss of majestic natural assets that have taken millions of years to develop!

It is simply not good enough, the NSW government, though correct planning procedures, needs to hold the Mining industry to account and impose restrictions to preserve and protect critical natural assets for the enjoyment of future generations.

Sincerely,

**Terry McCauley**

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