

Ulan Coal Mine Mod 4

08_0184 Mod 4

25th April 2018

To Whom it may concern;

I am writing to express my opposition to the current modification 4 of the Ulan Coal Mine.

As a frequent visitor since 1994 to the "Drip gorge" and Goulburn River National Park I have been astonished to discover that the Goulburn River has not been running in that area on my two previous visits 1st January 2018 and Easter 2018. I do not recall this type of event occurring on any previous visits. My understanding from local knowledge is the Ulan Mine operation controls the release of water up stream of the "drip gorge". The dewatering of the mine site, the storage and or usage of this water must not be allowed to substantially alter the natural flows of the Goulburn River system. This river system is already under a great deal of sustained pressure from the three mine sites (Ulan, Moolarben and Wilpinjong mines) in this region.

Independent studies need to be carried out to determine the impact on base flows to the river system due to ground or surface water interception by mining operations. Further to this, a study of cumulative regional impact of mining on the health and integrity of the Goulburn River need to be carried out before making any determination on modification 4.

The water quality and environmental flows from the mine site need to be mandated to mimic natural flows and monitored by the regulatory authority.

Coal mining in the last decade has increased significantly in the Goulburn River system region. No further mining expansion should be allowed in this area in particular Durridgere State Conservation Area.

Regards

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