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<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/42931>

Thursday 16 December 2021

Submission of Objection  
Moolarben Stage 2 – Mod 4 – UG2 Modification

I object to the proposal to increase the height and length of longwall mining in Moolarben Underground 2.

As a member of the Community Consultative Committee for Moolarben Coal Mine I have found the consultation and information provided to the community on this proposed increase in mining impacts to be deficient.

The cumulative impact of mining operations on the head waters of the Goulburn River, the significant Bioregional aspect of the Moolarben Mine together with neighbouring large operations and the ongoing loss of significant Aboriginal cultural heritage in this region of high historic occupation has not been adequately assessed or addressed in the reports.

The lack of access to the *Groundwater Technical Report on UG4 LW401-LW408 Extraction Plan (AGE, 2021)* referred to in App B is a critical issue preventing full analysis of the impact of the proposal on water sources.

The current cumulative impact of coal mining on groundwater, connected surface water and base flows to the Goulburn River must be a key focus of planning decisions for this proposed additional impact.

The proposed increased height of the longwall operations from 3m to 3.5m with a very shallow depth of cover of 40m will cause cracking to the surface and interference of the upper, good quality water Triassic aquifer system. This is the water source for springs and baseflows to water courses. There has been inadequate assessment of these valuable landscape assets.

The ongoing loss of significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites has been objected to by some of the Registered Aboriginal Parties, as identified in the Archaeological Report.

The proposal to extend longwall mining under areas set aside as Biodiversity Offsets is unacceptable and should not be approved.

The proposed increased production by 4.5 million tonnes is adding to Greenhouse Gas emissions at a time when the global carbon budget is nearly spent.

It does not make economic, social, environmental or political sense to continue approving more coal production at a time when carbon emissions are costing billions of dollars of damage through extreme weather events across the globe.

The economic benefits of this modification will not outweigh the significant environmental and cultural costs.

The lack of quality assessment and lack of access to all assessment reports demonstrates a very poor consultation process. This proposed modification of Moolarben Underground 2 should be rejected.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Smiles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bev Smiles