Objection to Moolarben Coal Operations Stage 1 Mod 14, Stage 2 Mod 3

From Sharyn Munro

I object on local, regional and global grounds.

Water impacts are serious, and underestimated.

This mine already takes more water from the land and river than predicted. Were this modification to go ahead, the cumulative impacts on the Goulburn River and the Hunter system would be too great. There must be an independent review of the updated groundwater model.

The salt limit for water discharge into the Goulburn River should be reduced to 500EC. But there must be no additional discharge of mine water at all into the River. It is not a drain!

The corresponding loss of biodiversity from this expansion is significant and the offset strategy is as inadequate as usual. There must be no net loss of biodiversity in reality, not just on paper.

This mine already has approval to produce until 2038. Coal may well be declared toxic worldwide by then. This modification would increase the mining rate to 3mtpa; the recently rejected Rocky Hill mine at Gloucester would have only produced less than 1 mtpa. And yet that was deemed unacceptable, given the urgency of reducing global warming and of NOT increasing Co2 emissions. And Moolarben's is thermal coal, so guaranteed to by burnt for power in its target Asian market.

Yancoal's greenhouse gas emissions assessment is incorrect.

An increase in 22 million tonnes p.a. until 2038 will not meet the reuqired global carbon budget for the Paris Agreement, It is unconscionable to approve an increase in fuelling global warming to any extent, let alone tripling what Yancoal are already approved to do.