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

Submission of Objection

1. In February this year, the proposed Rocky Hill Coal Mine's contribution to climate change was one of the key reasons cited by Judge Preston of The Land and Environment Court for refusing that proponent's application.
2. In reference to the above Moolarben project, I find an increase in production of coal by 3mtpa to 22 million tonnes per annum until 2038 is unsustainable, and will not meet our required reduction targets pledged to achieve the Paris Agreement. This is unacceptable. The Rocky Hill mine modification was for an increase of 1mtpa. Moolarben Coal Mine's application must be judged in this context.
3. We have had a summer of unprecedented natural disasters: bushfires across Australia; unimaginable floods in North Queensland; the worst drought in living memory, and the third hottest summer on record. Carbon emission increases from coal to our atmosphere are no longer tenable.

I would now like to address issues regarding ground and surface water.

1. Glencore's Ulan Mine and Peabody's Wilpinjong Mine are adjacent to the proponent's Moolarben Coal Mine, and there are already significant cumulative impacts on the Goulburn and Hunter river system. With the instability of climate change (lower and a change of rainfall patterns) it is not appropriate to increase the stress on this river system by approving extra water for mining purposes.
2. There should be no additional discharge of mine water into the Goulburn River
3. Salinity can already be seen around the banks of the Goulburn River. The salt limit for water discharge should be reduced to 500 EC.
4. The latest groundwater model needs to be independently reviewed

Other issues

1. No additional trains on the Sandy Hollow Rail Line. The line is already full to capacity.
2. The biodiversity impacts are significant and the offset strategy is inadequate
3. No additional jobs or public benefit will be achieved.

For all of the above reasons I strongly request that this project be refused .

Diane O'Mara

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