

Objection to Moolarben OC3 Expansion

As a longterm NSW resident I am very concerned by the expansion of mining and the decrease in habitat for our flora and fauna. I voted for strong environmental laws to protect our natural environment and I expect our governments to do this. I live on a remote property and would like to be confident that our natural environment is being protected for future generations. We utilise solar power and are very keen that NSW completely stop mining coal.

My key concerns include:

Total disturbance area: is 675ha at risk from clearing and mining activities. No amount of bio-diversity offsets can replace the existing environment. The expansion will result in serious and irreversible impact on the Regent Honeyeater, Broad-headed snake, Microbats including the eastern cat and large eared pied bats, along with White Box, Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum, Grassy Box woodland and derived native grassland.

Noise and blasting impacts on Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve were poorly assessed and not included in the modelling report.

Coal extraction: this project will add approximately 30Mt ROM coal, resulting in around 25Mt product coal over the life of the mine to end 2038

#Climate cost: over the life of the OC3 mine extension and additional 664Mt of GHG emissions will be produced

#Native species impact: Yancoal is proposing to clear 113ha of Koala habitat with breeding Koalas on site, as well as 80ha of Regent Honeyeater habitat also with breeding females recorded on site

#Water impacts: This project could cause groundwater drawdown up to and exceeding 2-6m for up to 25years post mining. This puts Moolarben Creek at risk, a vital drought refuge for wildlife.

#Cultural significance: Mining would damage Wiradjuri cultural landscapes and sacred sites

#Economic: There is no justification for this expansion to provide regional jobs. There have been vacancies at the three Mudgee region coal mines for many years. Additionally, the Moolarben Mine is within the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone where the

NSW Government is focusing on fast tracking renewable and providing jobs in this industry. Further, Yancoal has indicated that 65% of the coal will go to China, 10% to South Korea, 10% to Taiwan, 5% to Thailand, 5% to Japan and 5% to Others. Given the slow forecasted decline of Australian thermal coal demand from China and South Korea especially - the economic argument could be even weaker than Yancoal has outlined in their May 2025 Resource Assessment.

The project is clearly inconsistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement and the NSW Government's Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023. The NSW Government cannot afford to approve new or expanded coal projects during a climate and bio-diversity crisis. Thankyou for considering my submission

Sincerely

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Uriarra NSW 2611