

To whom it may concern,

My name is May and I'm writing in regards to the Moolarben Coal Complex OC3 Extension Project. As a young person I am terrified for my future, the continuing rising temperatures and the ongoing extraction of our earth until nothing is left. We are already witnessing the mass die-offs of many species that make this country we are on so special - the proposed additional clearing of the woodland will only accelerate these processes further. Wildlife in Australia is a rich tapestry of many species codependent on one another - if we lose one species in an area it will mean the deaths of all others connected to it.

Traditional cultures on this land understood this, honoured it, and as a result were able to live sustainably on this land for many thousands of years before the landing of the first fleet. The continual disrespect of these beliefs, beliefs which have only been further reinforced by modern science, is despicable - and continues to perpetuate the idea that native country/voice is "less-than" its settler counterpart. It continues to contribute to broader narratives of entitlement that have destroyed this earth, social cohesion and everything they touch. Only those who already sit atop piles of wealth continue to benefit from this continued destruction - those who also fund it.

Approving new coal and gas mines is a step backward in time. To mentalities that perpetuate genocide, the ideas that only suffering come from. Approval of new coal and gas mines is a symptom of broader problems, but one that is able to be stopped. Think about the future of the land, those who live off it, and everyone connected to these ecosystems. Only those who want the earth to suffer will benefit from the approval of a new mine. Reflect on those you love and how you'd wish a future for them - why is it not the same for those who have lived on this land for centuries.

I hope you take this into consideration. We are in a crisis - this will only lead us further to annihilation.

Kind regards,  
May