

Submission on Moolarben Coal OC3 Extension Project

To the Independent Planning Commission.

My name is Marie Belcredi and I live at [REDACTED] NSW 2121. I am a semi retired person that is concerned about the proposed extension to the Moorlaben Coal extension Project. I am a mother and a grandmother who has 4 children and 7 grandchildren and I am concerned about the world that we are leaving them.

This my submission for the above project which I object to on the following grounds:

1. Koala Habitat clearing. Yancoal is proposing to clear 113ha of Koala habitat. We have cleared so much koala habitat that and the conservation status is Endangered. The latest bushfires have also impacted koalas and I am very much afraid that this will be another step to extinction. NSW should definitely not allow this to happen. ¹
2. The habitat of the Regional Honeyeater will also be impacted. Another bird that is endangered and on a road to extinction. ²
3. Impact on cave dwelling bats. Bat are one of our main pollinators necessary for our gum trees. They have already been impacted by heat events dying in their hundreds. ³
4. Additional climate impacts. After the horrendous Summer that we have experienced and with 2025 now being the third warmest year on record⁴ how can the government justify adding to the carbon already in the atmosphere. It makes no difference if the coal is burnt in Australia or anywhere else in the world. This project will add another 64,000,000 tonnes of climate pollution to our atmosphere. As a mother and a grandmother, I am very much afraid more and more carbon being dumped into the atmosphere. At some point we have to stop.
5. Impacts on groundwater. Groundwater in western NSW is precious and needs to be conserved especially in times of extreme weather. The project is expected to lower (draw down) the groundwater level in the surrounding area. The drop in groundwater could be between 2 and 6 metres, and in some places it could be even more than 6 metres. This reduction wouldn't be short-term — it could last for as long as 25 years after mining has finished. In the report "Advice re Moorlaben Coal Complex OC3 Extension Project (SSD-330833580)" See footnote 3 below. *"The Panel considers there is a moderate to high risk that shallow groundwater could be dewatered or become ephemeral in some alluvial areas along Moolarben Creek, thereby reducing the volume of groundwater available for riparian vegetation"*

¹ <https://threatenedspecies.bionet.nsw.gov.au/profile?id=10616>

² <https://threatenedspecies.bionet.nsw.gov.au/profile?id=10841>

³ Advice re Moorlaben Coal Complex OC3 Extension Project (SSD-330833580) available at <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-06/ieapm-moolarben-coal-complex-20250417.pdf>

⁴ <https://climate.copernicus.eu/global-climate-highlights-2025>

There are additional reasons why this project should not proceed; however, the points outlined above are, in my view, the most critical. I strongly urge the Independent Planning Commission to reject this proposal in order to protect future generations and to preserve the unique wildlife and environment we are privileged to have.

Sincerely,

Marie Belcredi

Epping NSW 2121