

12th January 2026



Coffs Harbour

NSW 2450

Dear NSW Independent Planning Commission,

My name is Kathy Sheehan. I am writing to urge you to reject the application by Yancoal to expand the Moolarben Coal Mine (OC3) near Mudgee on Wiradjuri Country.

It is possible that I am a descendant of the Wiradjuri people, and regardless of my ancestry, I hold deep respect for the cultural heritage and connection to Country that this proposed expansion threatens.

Extending the Moolarben mine would lock in decades of additional climate pollution and cause serious harm to threatened species, local water sources, and cultural heritage. At a time when the impacts of climate change are already being felt across Australia through worsening droughts, floods, and extreme heat, approving a major expansion of a thermal coal mine is inconsistent with the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Coal contains carbon that has been stored underground for millions of years. Extracting and burning it releases large quantities of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, further destabilising the climate system. This expansion would therefore contribute to worsening climate change, with long-term consequences for ecosystems, communities, and future generations.

It is time for companies seeking to make profits to do so in ways that respect people, nature, and the limits of the natural environment. Rather than expanding coal extraction, Yancoal could invest in genuinely sustainable energy solutions that support both employment and environmental responsibility.

As a concerned Australian citizen, I respectfully ask the Commission to say “No” to the Moolarben OC3 expansion.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,
Kathy Sheehan