

14/02/2026

Personal Submission to NSW Independent Planning Commission, Regarding the proposed expansion of Yancoal's Moolarben coal mine known as open cut 3 (OC3)

My name is David Anderson, I am the property owner of [REDACTED] Kains Flat. NSW 2850.

I wish to take this opportunity to voice my concerns regarding real and potential impacts of this expansion to the existing Moolarben coal mine in the vicinity of my property.

My family has had ownership of this property for over forty years. In that time, my family and I have spent many years exploring the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve, the Goulburn River National Park, "Drip gorge", Ferntree Gully and Ganguddy (Dunns Swamp), and have grown to greatly appreciate the biodiversity of this area. As an avid birder, I particularly enjoy the rich diversity of birdlife these areas offer. The Munghorn boasts more than 150 different species of birds. Both The Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve and the Goulburn River National Park are very dear to my family and friends

When you look at the map of the proposed extension of OC3, you can plainly see how impactful, the habitat loss, noise, dust, light pollution and degradation of the ground water will have on the bird life, animals and plants of the nature reserve. It is not as if the OC3 alone is impacting on the sensitivity of this nature reserve. The existing Wilpinjong mine already abuts a substantial area of the north and eastern edge of the nature reserve and currently has submitted a proposal to expand that mine. Both OC3 and Wilpinjong mines have virtually no buffer between the open cut excavation and the nature reserve. In the case of OC3, they are proposing a 100 metre buffer, this should be at least 500 metres. How any reasonable thinking person can assert there will be no or little negative impact on the birds, animals, plants and ground water of the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve is beyond me.

Further to the concerns raised above, I also wish to express my deep concern regarding:

- The light and noise pollution currently experienced by the residents of Kains Flat and surrounds from the Wilpinjong mine will no doubt be exacerbated considerably with the addition of OC3, as it is a lot closer to Kains Flat.
- Greenhouse gas emissions of 65 million tonnes will be produced by excavating and burning the additional 30 million tonnes of coal from OC3.
- Coal extraction continuing from this mine until at least 2038, and the negative effect it will likely have on investment in the newly created Central- West Orana Renewables Energy Zone. If Regional NSW is to transition into a more viable and sustainable economy, the NSW government and decisions its statutory bodies makes, needs to align with progressive economic sense.
- The cumulative impacts of further mining near this area. Not only through the Moolarben, Wilpinjong and Ulan coal mines. There has also been recent approval for Bowden's to mine lead, silver and zinc mine at Lue. Bowdens, also have an exploration licence over a substantial area of Bara, Botobalar and Kains Flat.
- Worth noting, the Australian government does not list coal as a critical mineral.
- What long term benefit does this coal mine expansion give the Australian people. I would suggest it negligible at best.

Before the IPC makes their decision, I would ask you the commissioners to provide to the community, a guarantee of a truly independent scientific analysis of any potential impacts on the biodiversity and groundwater to the Munghorn and its surrounds.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Regards

David Anderson