

I am writing to OBJECT to the Moolarben Coal Complex OC3 Extension Project.
Project Number SSD-33083358.

I live in the Upper Hunter, so am very familiar with the impacts of coal mining.

Sure, mining coal is beneficial, for some. But for the rest of us, I'm referring to issues such as noise, coal dust, environmental disturbance and habitat loss, agricultural land loss and transient workers and their impact on road traffic and the local community, for example. Therefore, I know from personal experience how frustrating and disappointing these impacts are on nearby residents.

Further, I'm concerned this extension project will negatively impact the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve. I understand it will clear many hectares of native vegetation and encroach to within just one hundred metres of the reserve's boundary.

Destroying any amount of native vegetation in this day and age is outrageous, especially considering there are alternative solutions available instead with greatly reduced impacts.

I understand this vegetation is an important habitat for nearly two dozen threatened wildlife species, including koalas, bats and honeyeater birds. It worries me what kind of negative impacts these creatures will be subjected to, and whether they will survive them at all!

This habitat provides food and shelter which is obviously critical to their survival. Remove it, and they'll disappear too. Are we sure we are comfortable with this outcome? It is unacceptable to allow this habitat to be cleared when our wildlife's very existence is being threatened by both climate stresses and habitat loss.

I wonder what would happen if this habitat was actually preserved? Surely it can't hurt to try - for theirs and our future generations' sake.

With dozens of other mining projects also being approved in recent times, I am very concerned about the cumulative impact all of these operations will have. Just how much of our native flora and fauna are we prepared to lose?

It also saddens me that this expansion will likely destroy dozens of precious, and irreplaceable, aboriginal artefacts. Artefacts that I understand, have high cultural value. Considering the destruction other aboriginal heritage and cultural sites around the country have suffered as a result of mining, I again, cannot believe that even further destruction can be allowed!

I would like to conclude with a few lines taken from a speech* made by the Federal Minister for Environment and Water:

"As the home to species not seen anywhere else in the world, we have a crucial responsibility to protect and restore them.

The environment matters.

It matters for every living creature.

The alternative is surrendering Australia's future, and that's not an option.

The Albanese Government will maintain the momentum.

Protecting and restoring the places that matter.

The amazing plants and animals that call Australia home."

For these reasons, I urge the Independent Planning Commission to reject the Moolarben Coal Complex OC3 Extension Project.

Thank you,



* 2025 Statement to Parliament on International Environmental Leadership.

4 November 2025.

<https://minister.dcceew.gov.au/watt/speeches/2025-statement-parliament-international-environmental-leadership>