

To the Independent Planning Commission, submissions@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

OBJECTIONS to the Moolarben OC3 Mine Extension Project Number SSD-33083358

My name is Merran Maclaren, I am a concerned individual who lives in the Blue Mountains, Sydney. I am deeply concerned about the expansion of coal mining in our state, due to the climate impacts being felt in my area. People in my area are already sitting through extreme heatwaves, our energy bills are going up due to the added cost of air conditioning, and I know communities across NSW are facing the same struggles. I am writing to object to Yancoal's proposed Moolarben OC3 coal mine expansion SSD-33083358 near Mudgee on Wiradjuri Country. I am concerned that this project would cause serious and irreversible harm to the environment, climate and community, and should not be approved. In particular, I am concerned about:

- Threatened species and habitat loss, including the clearing of over 113 hectares of koala habitat where koalas and breeding have been recorded, as well as Regent Honeyeater and microbat habitat. No biodiversity offsets can replace habitat that is already supporting threatened species.
- Impacts on Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve, with mining proposed within 100 metres of the reserve and inadequate assessment of noise, blasting and vibration impacts.
- Water and groundwater risks, including long-term groundwater drawdown that could harm Moolarben Creek and groundwater-dependent ecosystems that are critical drought refuges for wildlife.
- Climate impacts, with the project producing an estimated 64 million tonnes of additional greenhouse gas emissions at a time when NSW is not on track to meet its legislated emissions reduction targets.

- Lack of public benefit, with no clear jobs justification for expanding coal mining in a region where renewable energy development is being prioritised.

The NSW Government cannot afford to approve new or expanded coal projects during a climate and biodiversity crisis. This proposal is inconsistent with the NSW Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023 and the goals of the Paris Agreement. For these reasons, I urge the Independent Planning Commission to recommend that the Moolarben OC3 Coal Mining Extension Project be refused.

If approved, the Moolarben OC3 expansion would clear **113 hectares of koala habitat**, where breeding has been recorded, destroy Regent Honeyeater and microbat habitat, and bring mining within 100 metres of Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve. It would add an estimated **64 million tonnes of climate pollution** — at a time when NSW is already failing to meet its legislated climate targets, and communities here in NSW and across the world are facing climate-fuelled disasters.

The changes now proposed by Yancoal do not reduce the footprint of the mine at all but merely propose to manage more areas of vegetation outside the mine area for so-called 'habitat enhancement'. This amendment won't make any difference to the direct and indirect impact on threatened wildlife and ecosystems, and it completely disrupts the community consultation process that is underway.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely, Name : Merran Madaren

Signature:

Address:

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I have visited "The Drip" and Goulburn River area - a precious, unique environment. must be saved!!