

To the Independent Planning Commission,

I am Louise Bargwanna and I am a fruit grower in southern NSW.

I am deeply concerned about the expansion of coal mining in our states, due to the climate impacts being felt in my area. My fruit trees are suffering through extreme weather events, 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 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. This rich biodiverse area should be incorporated into the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve and protected.

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.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,

Louise Bargwanna

Tomerong NSW