

My name is Marita Macrae OAM. Now retired, I have spent much of my working life doing bush regeneration in the Northern Beaches area of Sydney, and have participated in many tree planting projects in country NSW, including about 15 tree-planting weekends in the Capertee Valley restoring habitat for the endangered Regent Honeyeater.

I wish to object to this project for these reasons:

The impact on bushland and fauna habitat and native species cannot be justified by proposing biodiversity offsets to replace the existing environment. Yancoal is proposing to clear 113ha of woodland. All of the bush they will clear is koala habitat and koalas are recorded on site, including in the middle of one of the proposed pits and breeding is occurring in the area. It is also Regent Honeyeater breeding habitat. Other fauna and flora affected will be Broad-headed Snake, Microbats (eastern cave and large-eared pied bats), and White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Box Woodland and Derived Native Grassland (loss of 493.12 Ha).

Given:

- a) that NSW is not on track to meet Green House Gas targets;
- b) that NSW is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change;
- c) that approval of Moolarben is not in the public interest and not aligned with Paris Agreement goals or the principles of the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023, **the project should be rejected.**