

Objection to the Moolarben Coal Operations Stage 1 Mod 14, Stage 2 Mod 3

I am writing on behalf of the Central West Environment Council (CWEC) to object to the above modifications. CWEC is an umbrella group representing district environment and naturalist groups in the Central West of NSW, including Rylstone, Mudgee, Dubbo, Bathurst, Lithgow, Orange and Blayney. CWEC is a non-profit organisation working hard to protect the environment of the Central West for future generations.

Our main reasons for the objection lie in the effect on climate change, the adverse impacts on the local river and groundwater systems, as well as the effects on biodiversity.

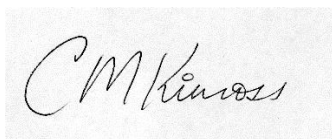
Climate change is a major issue for New South Wales due the large reliance on the coal industry, and this mine is one of the major contributors. The increase that these modifications will trigger will adversely impact on Australia's efforts to meet its commitments to the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, it appears that the assessment of the increase in carbon emissions has not been correctly estimated.

The increase in water extraction from the Goulburn River is totally unacceptable. This will affect not just the Goulburn River itself, but also the whole Hunter system. With the precarious nature of our fragile river ecosystems hanging in the balance, we should not be putting additional stress on these systems.

Finally, as appears to be often the case, the biodiversity impacts are substantial, but under-compensated for by the offset strategy.

For these reasons, we feel compelled to object to a further increase in production of this mine.

We thank you for the opportunity to have our say on this development.



Yours sincerely

Cilla Kinross

President

Central West Environment Council