

**Major Development Assessment,  
Department of Planning  
GPO BOX 39,  
SYDNEY NSW 2001 or Fax: 02 92286466  
Email: moolarben\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au**

Submission:

I would like to lodge my objection to the Moolarben Coal Project No.05\_0117

The Moolarben Coal Project is situated in an extremely sensitive area adjacent to the Goulburn River Gorge, between the Goulburn River National Park and Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve in the Upper Hunter Catchment.

In the current deepening water crisis this project threatens the Goulburn River and associated groundwater system, a tributary of the Hunter River and ignores the significance of this riverine corridor as a regionally significant scenic and cultural landscape.

This area should be protected from any direct or indirect impacts of coal mining for the benefits of all Australians. Any threat to this area is unacceptable.

I am an Aboriginal woman, descendant of the Wiradjuri and Ngemba tribes. This area is especially significant to myself, my children and extended family clan. We held Aboriginal cultural healing ceremony for myself during both my pregnancies and also after the birth of both the children held our Aboriginal cultural welcoming and smoking ceremonies. My second son was born in this significant place, this was a cultural decision to do so.

This area has a huge potential in terms of community education, spiritual and cultural values. Of particular importance to our family is that this area is invaluable to teach about the survival of Aboriginal cultural, of our beliefs and values and to invite others to share with us in living contemporary Aboriginal culture and the reviving of our culture and ceremonies.

I have also been asked to feature in a documentary, taking Australians to this area via the film, such is the significance of the contemporary revival of Aboriginal cultural birth practices.

Any damage to this area would be a devastating loss to our family clan, to Wiradjuri people in general, to all Aboriginal people and to the Australian community.

Yours sincerely,

Date: 23rd Oct 2006