

**Water Issues that place at risk the Goulburn River &  
The Drip groundwater dependent feature**

1. **A drilling program to establish an extensive dewatering bore field** has been commenced opposite the Drip south of the river in preparation for the Underground Mine 4. **Why are they commencing this now** 5 years before planned mine start in 2022?
2. **The current groundwater monitoring program is inadequate** to establish background / baseline conditions and risk to the flow in Goulburn River.
3. **Increased river discharge of mine water.** MCO is lodging yet another Modification (14) which includes an increase in their EPA License to 20 million litres per day – salinity 900 EC. If this is approved it will result in a **significant increase in the salt load in Goulburn River**. They are obviously expecting to produce more water than the originally predicted. Underground 1 was supposed to be a “dry mine but is producing 60L/s ~ 5 Million litres a day.
4. **The dewatering of upper Triassic aquifers** was experienced in the UCML mine immediately to the west of the planned Moolarben Underground mine 4. Modification 14 is said to include a new MCO groundwater model. Will the new model factor the dewatering of the upper Triassic groundwater into potential impacts?
5. The Deed requires MCO to establish monitoring Piezometers (monitoring bores) in areas 2 & 3 to assess hydrogeology
6. **Drilling in Area 2 (north of the Drip) is a risky venture.** This will cause damage to the surface (heavily vegetated and rugged/pagoda country) and could **intercept/interfere with existing sensitive groundwater flow paths to The Drip.**