

MEDIA RELEASE

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Moolarben Mega Coal Mine expansion a step too far

Mudgee District Environment Group (MDEG) does not support the proposed expansion of the Yancoal Mega Moolarben Coal Mine to destroy more of the beautiful Moolarben Valley and its important Koala habitat.

The Yancoal Moolarben Mine was one of the two largest producers of coal in NSW in 2023, both pushing out 14.2 million tonnes of coal. Yancoal already has approval to produce up to 22 million tonnes of coal per year from the existing mega Moolarben Mine up to 2038.

Yancoal, a Chinese Government company, has released an amended project that reduces the size of the expansion and the volume of additional coal to be extracted. However, MDEG maintains this expansion cannot be justified and should not be approved.

Rosemary Hadaway, Chair of MDEG:

'There is no reason for the Yancoal Moolarben Mine to continue expanding into the Moolarben Valley close to the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve. The impacts of the current approved mine on biodiversity, water and the community are already enormous.'

'While the proposed expansion has been decreased in size, there is no justification to produce a further 30 million tonnes of coal within the life of the approved mine to 2038.'

'Expanding into the southern end of the Moolarben Valley is a step too far. The bushland contains critically endangered species and provides food sources for Koala, Regent Honeyeater and other native animals threatened with extinction. No amount of biodiversity offsets can replace the existing environment.'

'There is no justification for this expansion to provide regional jobs. There have been vacancies at the three Mudgee region coal mines for many years.'

The Moolarben Mine is within the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone where the NSW Government is focusing on fast-tracking renewable energy. It is ridiculous to be expanding coal mining in the area at the same time.'

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