

Media Release
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Save the Drip and Brett Whiteley mural from coal mining expand local national park

Greens MP and mining spokesperson Lee Rhiannon has called on the NSW government to expand Goulburn River National Park to protect the unique local environment and heritage sites under threat from the push by Felix Resources to expand the Moolarben Coal Mine near Mudgee.

"The magnificent natural formations - the Goulburn River Drip and Corner Gorges will be under threat if Felix Resources is allowed to expand open cut coal mining in this area," Ms Rhiannon said.

"The NSW government should back today's call by the Mid Western Regional Council for these environmentally unique areas to be excluded from Felix Resources plans to expand their mining lease.

"There has been a strong local campaign to save this unique area for years.

"If this area is not protected the famous Brett Whiteley mural painted on the face of the Goulburn River Gorges could be irreparably damaged.

"Mid Western Regional Council Mayor Percy Thompson has urged the government to incorporate the Drip and the Corner Gorges into the Goulburn River National Park.

"There is substantial evidence that long wall mining damages cliff faces and river beds. It would be irresponsible for the government to allow Felix Resources to mine in areas that would result in extensive damage to unique natural formations and local waterways.

"The Environmental Assessment Report for the Moolarben Coal Mine is a flawed document as many of its conclusions are based on inadequate data and assumptions.

"This report should not be used to justify granting this mine expansion on the terms set out by Felix Resources.

"This area and the surrounding landscape have a complex and extensive groundwater system.

"This iconic landscape is of national significance and the area should be safeguarded for future generations," Ms Rhiannon said.

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