



# Goulburn River Stone Cottages

CD & JE Imrie  
"Gleniston" Cassilis Ulan Rd.  
Via Mudgee 285 0

Ph: (02) 63734650 Fax: 02 63734814  
Website: [www.stonecottages.com.au](http://www.stonecottages.com.au)  
Email: [info@stonecottages.com.au](mailto:info@stonecottages.com.au)  
ABN: 65764069715

**Major Development Assessment,  
Department of Planning  
GPO BOX 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001**

**29 April 2009**

**Re: Moolarben CM Stage 2 - No: 08\_0135  
& Modification Stage 1 - No: 05\_0117 MOD 3**

We would like to lodge our objection to Moolarben CM Stage 2 - No: 08\_0135 & Modification Stage 1 - No: 05\_0117 MOD 3 on the basis that it would have a permanent detrimental impact on our business Goulburn River Stone Cottages (operating since 1980). The Moolarben Coal Mine (MCM) will detract from our ecotourism business which provides a quiet, clean green and unique retreat where our guests can 'breathe the fresh country air, see the stars at night and birdlife from the verandah or meander along the Goulburn River where clear waters flow'.

This Mine will place unacceptable pressure on this landscape and water catchment already under pressure from past mining practices and result in significant cumulative environmental, cultural and social impacts. The potential impacts from mining on our business and property include:

- Loss of aesthetic value and tourism access to the nationally and culturally significant Goulburn River gorges.
- Mine subsidence (2.4m) will seriously damage the only access road to our business, underground telephone line and, with associated mine operations, constitutes a significant risk to our guests arriving and leaving throughout the day and night.
- Extraction and depressurising of ground water within our privately owned coal resource (DP1019758 Lot 1 Parish Lennox, County Phillip - predicted drawdown of 120m Permian aquifer and 2m in the Triassic aquifer).
- Significant reduction in the quality and quantity of our main water supply (Bore -SP49 and river flow)
- Substantial increases in noise and dust - there has been no assessment of baseline noise or dust in our area (and the northern section of EL6288)
- Disruption and noise from pumps and clearing for mine infrastructure and access roads associated with the proposed bore field.
- Substantial increase in traffic on the Cassilis Ulan road resulting in dangerous road conditions
- Dislocation and removal of the local community and support infrastructure

We strongly object to the setting of background noise criteria to a standard 30 dB(A) even when the measured rural level can be significantly less than 30 dB(A),L90. Conventional methods of assessing annoyance, typically based on A-weighted equivalent level, are also inadequate for low frequency noise and lead to incorrect decisions by regulatory authorities.

If the MCM Stage 2 application is allowed to proceed the Department of Planning should take the opportunity to adjust the current mining approval plan to mitigate and compensate for some of the above impacts. We strongly urge the government to exclude from this mining development Underground 4 Long walls 9-13 and Open cut areas 2 & 3. These areas are highly valued by our society from their irreplaceable water resources to their recreational, cultural, educational and in the Moolarben valley, agricultural and remnant EEC native vegetation values.


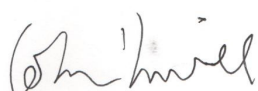
Dr Philip Pells (Pells Sullivan Meynink) will assist in further comment on impacts to water resources.

We urge the Minister and Department of Planning to consider the following recommendations.

### **Recommendations:**

- **The culturally and scenically significant Goulburn River Drip and Corner Gorges (which includes the Brett Whiteley mural) are fully protected from the impacts of coal mining by the addition of this section of the river corridor and adjacent escarpments into the Goulburn River National Park. This is the best way that this iconic landscape of national significance is safeguarded for future generations.**  
(This includes the crown land DP 759759 Lot 45 in total and northern section of DP 755439 Lot 30 Parish Lennox County Bligh)
- **No production bore field is permitted within at least 2 kms of the Goulburn River Drip and Corner Gorges.**
- **Representative monitoring sites and baseline data are established along with appropriate trigger levels and contingency response plans that are based on extensive scientific assessments and have the confidence of affected landowners and community.**
- **There is an enquiry into the health impacts on rural communities from dust and noise produced by mining operations which includes a review of assessment criteria including the NSW Industrial Noise Policy (1994).**
- **The government should retain the right to revoke the approval to mine this publicly owned coal resource (with no compensation), if within a reasonable time (say 5-10 yrs) the coal is not being utilised in an ecologically sustainable carbon capture and storage (CCS) system.**

Thank you,



JE & CD Imrie  
Goulburn River Stone Cottages