



MOOLARBEN COAL COMPLEX OPEN CUT EXTENSION PROJECT

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022

Moolarben is proposing to extend the Open Cut 3 (OC3) mining area. This newsletter is the third in a series that provides an update on the status of the Project and information on upcoming community information sessions for the Project.

■ ABOUT THE OC3 EXTENSION PROJECT

The Project proposes to extend open cut operations to the south and east of its existing OC3 mining area. This will allow Moolarben to recover additional resources (approximately 40 million tonnes (Mt) of run-of-mine (ROM) coal) over a ten year period (from approximately 2025 to 2034). The Project would be integrated with the existing Moolarben Coal Complex and will not change the approved duration or intensity of mining at the Complex.

The Project has been carefully designed to avoid and/or minimise environmental and social impacts, where feasible and practicable. Key features of the Project include:

- Maintaining the currently approved mine life (until 2038) and maximum production rate (22 Mt per annum) for the Complex
- Improving the final landform, with no residual voids in the Project area (including removing the approved void for the existing OC3 mining area)
- Protecting habitat features for threatened bat species near the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve
- Avoiding open cut mining within 200 metres of Moolarben Creek and Murdering Creek
- Minimising clearance of native vegetation
- Progressing mining away from publicly visible areas
- Rehabilitating the landform to support a mixed post-mining land use of agriculture and native vegetation

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Community Information Drop-in Sessions

If you'd like to find out more about the proposed Project or our existing operations, join us at one of Moolarben's upcoming community information drop-in sessions.

Venue: Cooyal Community Hall
Wollar Road, Cooyal, NSW.

Date: Thursday 18 August (4 – 6 pm)
or Friday 19 August (8 – 10 am)

■ CURRENT STATUS

EIS Preparation

Expected EIS Lodgement September 2022

- Moolarben is currently preparing the Project EIS to ensure it addresses the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued by the NSW Dept. of Planning and comments raised by the community and Government agencies.
- Additional SEARs were issued by the NSW Dept. of Planning following the Commonwealth's determination that the Project is a 'controlled action' under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* and that Commonwealth matters will be assessed under the State approval process.
- Moolarben is working with specialists to prepare impact assessments, including air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, surface water, groundwater, Aboriginal cultural heritage, historic heritage, biodiversity, agriculture, social and economic impact assessments, which will inform identification of relevant management and mitigation measures for the Project.

■ APPROVALS PROCESS

MILESTONES	OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEEDBACK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moolarben commences scoping phase consultation and preparation of Scoping Report	Initial stakeholder engagement during preparation of the Scoping Report has been undertaken to ensure community issues and concerns with the Project are identified and scoped.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moolarben submits Scoping Report and receives SEARs from NSW Dept. of Planning	Focused engagement has been undertaken to inform the preliminary social impact assessment component of the Scoping Report.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moolarben lodges a Referral under the Commonwealth EPBC Act	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project determined to be a controlled action under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. SEARs re-issued to address Commonwealth matters	
<input type="checkbox"/> Moolarben undertakes EIS phase consultation and prepares the Project EIS	Engagement will continue with stakeholders during preparation of the EIS. Questions raised by the community will be taken into consideration in the Project design and addressed in the EIS. Focused engagement will also inform the social impact assessment and the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for the EIS.
<input type="checkbox"/> Moolarben submits development application to NSW Dept. of Planning and the Project EIS is placed on public exhibition	The community has further opportunity to submit feedback directly to NSW Dept. of Planning during the public exhibition period.
<input type="checkbox"/> Moolarben responds to submissions made during public exhibition	Engagement will continue with stakeholders to address concerns raised during public exhibition.
<input type="checkbox"/> NSW Dept. of Planning assesses the Project, having regard to Moolarben's EIS, public and agency submissions and Moolarben's response to these submissions	Community feedback can continue to be provided to Moolarben or the NSW Dept. of Planning while the Project is under assessment.
<input type="checkbox"/> Independent Planning Commission determines the Project	Independent Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for the Project where members of the public will have the opportunity to address the commissioners.
<input type="checkbox"/> Commonwealth Minister for the Environment makes separate determination under the EPBC Act	

■ OTHER NEWS

UG2 Modification

Underground 2 (UG2) mining area's proposed modification is continuing with the NSW Dept. of Planning. This modification includes increased extraction height and the extension of two longwall panels.

Moolarben is currently preparing a response to the submissions received from the community and Government agencies during the exhibition period. Once submitted, the NSW Dept. of Planning will finalise its assessment and determine the modification.

If you would like further information on the proposed Project or have any questions regarding the Moolarben Coal Complex, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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