

## **Moolarben Coal Mine**

White Industries were successful in tendering for the Moolarben exploration license granted in 2004 and were taken over by Felix Resources, a Queensland based mining company. Felix directors included Travis Duncan and Brian Flannery.

Moolarben Mine was approved in 2007 to operate 3 large open cut pits and an underground mine with 10 longwall panels.

The mine was sold to Chinese Government owned company, Yanzhou, trading in Australia as Yancoal. An application for a major Stage 2 expansion with a fourth large open cut and another 2 underground mines is still to be determined. A hearing of the Planning Assessment Commission was held in Mudgee on 27 February 2014

The mine has also undergone 7 modifications of the Stage 1 approval with modification 3 and modification 9 still to be determined. This decision is also with the Planning Assessment Commission.

The mine has caused major impacts on community health through noise and dust intrusions. A significant number of local properties have been purchased by Yancoal. The village of Ulan is now a mining depot with the local community desimated.

Yancoal purchased the Crown Land block containing 'The Drip' in 2010 and is currently exploring for coal in the exploration lease area to the north of the Goulburn River. There are major concerns that any additional mining operations near 'The Drip' will impact on the groundwater sources that feed it and cause structural damage to the sandstone escarpment in 'The Drip' and Corner Gorges.

For more information on Moolarben Mine go to:

[www.savethedrip.com/](http://www.savethedrip.com/) and [www.facebook.com/savethedrip](https://www.facebook.com/savethedrip)