



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER UPDATE AUGUST 2025

## Moolarben Coal Complex

### Project updates

Moolarben Coal continues to advance plans for key projects that support the long-term viability of our operation and its positive contribution to the Mid-Western Regional Council area and beyond. These projects have been carefully designed to meet rigorous environmental standards, regulatory requirements and community expectations.



### Open Cut 3 Extension Project

Plans are progressing for the Open Cut 3 (OC3) Extension Project, which proposes to extend operations south and east of the existing OC3 mining area. The Project remains under assessment by the NSW Dept. of Planning, with input from the Independent Expert Advisory Panel for Mining. Upon completion of its assessment, the NSW Dept. of Planning will refer the Project to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) to hold a public hearing and make a determination. Once the State's process is complete, the Federal Government will then make a determination under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. If approved, OC3 operations are expected to commence in late 2026 and continue until 2034.

### Project Benefits



The Project would deliver a net gain of 557 hectares of native woodland in the Moolarben Valley through revegetation and rehabilitation. This is in addition to meeting the required biodiversity offset obligation for the Project in accordance with NSW legislation.



The Project would continue to support the Mid-Western Regional Council area by contributing to annual economic output.



The Project would support ongoing local employment in the Central West region, as Moolarben currently employs approximately 790 full-time staff, with the majority residing in the Mid-Western Local Government Area.





## On-Site Rehabilitation Progress

As part of a recent pre-clearing ecological survey, the Moolarben Coal Environment and Community team identified an opportunity to translocate *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii* (grass trees) into an existing rehabilitation area.

Translocation involves the deliberate transfer of whole plants from an ex-situ collection or natural population to a new location (see Figure 1).

Following careful planning, seven grass trees were removed from their original site with great care taken to minimise damage to their root systems. They were relocated to the 2014 OC1 rehabilitation area,

where original soil from beneath each plant was used during replanting. This critical step helps preserve the mycorrhizal fungi essential for the plants to access nutrients from the skeletal soils of the area.

These iconic, slow-growing plants (growing only 1–2 cm per year and taking up to ten years to form trunks), play an important role in ecosystem recovery by enhancing species diversity. Their presence supports pollinators such as bees, birds and insects, contributing to the long-term ecological resilience of the rehabilitation site.



Figure 1: translocation process – *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*

## Community Support Program

Applications for the 2026 Community Support Program open on the 1st of September 2025. Since 2010, Moolarben Coal has invested over \$1.2 million in projects across the Mid-Western Region. In 2025, more than 35 local initiatives spanning education, environmental sustainability, healthcare, infrastructure, arts and

cultural heritage received funding. Grants are available to community groups, not-for-profit organisations, schools, local councils and more. For funding guidelines and a link to the application form, visit:

**[www.yancoal.com.au/our-sites/moolarben](http://www.yancoal.com.au/our-sites/moolarben)**.



## Community Spotlight

Four local leaders have shared how mining support is helping their organisations, and as a result, strengthening our region:



**Kate Day**, Program Coordinator for Doctors 4 Mudgee Region, says mining's backing has attracted two new GPs to Mudgee and Gulgong in July, helping reduce appointment wait times and ease pressure on emergency departments.



**John Stuart**, Treasurer of Cudgegong Cruisers, says Moolarben Coal's long-term sponsorship of Can Cruise has helped raise \$263,000 over 17 years, providing critical, locally delivered support to hundreds of Mid-Western residents battling cancer.



**Grant Gjessing**, Managing Director of Strait Up Cranes & Rigging and President of Business Mudgee, says Moolarben Coal's long-term contracts have helped his business thrive and reinforced the mine's deep commitment to community-led growth.



**Rob Whackett**, Director of Dunedoo Sports Club, says that Tunes on the Turf draws 1,500 attendees each November and credits Moolarben's \$6,000 annual support for keeping the festival thriving.

## Economic Contribution

Data from the 2025 Mid-Western Economic and Business Profile confirms mining's leading role in our local economy:

- Mining drives **\$6.135 billion in regional economic output**
- In 2024, mining generated **\$4.49 billion in goods and services**, compared with \$316 million from real estate, \$214 million from agriculture, and \$229 million from tourism
- Unemployment in the Mid-Western Region sits at 1.9%, **almost half the NSW average of 3.7%**
- Mining has driven a **352% increase in regional economic output** from 2014 to 2024.

Source: ABS 2021 Census, <sup>1</sup>ABS Regional Population (Estimated Residential Population 2022-23), <sup>2</sup>REMPAN Economic Profile (December 2023), <sup>3</sup>National Skills Commission (December 2023), Australian Business Register (ABR: 1 April 2024), ABS Counts of Australian Businesses (June 2023), realestate.com.au (May 2024), Localis (April 2024).

## Community feedback

We value the ongoing feedback from community members and technical experts regarding our Projects. As our plans progress and new information becomes available, we remain committed to keeping all stakeholders informed. Your feedback plays an important role in shaping our approach, helping us to balance operational needs with environmental and social responsibilities.

We welcome further input via:

**Email:** [moolarben.feedback@yancoal.com.au](mailto:moolarben.feedback@yancoal.com.au)

**Phone:** 1800 626 622

**Web:** [www.yancoal.com.au/our-sites/moolarben/](http://www.yancoal.com.au/our-sites/moolarben/)

Next quarter, we will provide further updates on Project approvals, community grant outcomes and new opportunities to engage. Thank you for your continued interest and support of our operation.