



18-9-9

The Secretary
SCE
P.O Box 6100

Dear Sir - Madam

I write with regard to an area on the Darling Downs (Felton) just outside Toowoomba. I have lived most of my sixty-five years within an hour's drive of this & similar areas on the Downs. Currently, an application to mine coal in the Felton area is under consideration.

Felton is fairly typical Darling Downs country. Basically fairly level creek flats, edged by slow lying hills which generally have retained most of their natural vegetation. Currently used for grain growing and grazing, the land is regarded as some of the best cropping land in Australia (the world?). The current wheat & barley crops, in their "green" state, look pretty bloody good.

(Irrelevant) comment by a friend of

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mine, driving through the area just
on sundown a few days ago.

"I thought I'd died, & gone to Heaven."

Felton, & the neighbouring areas,
are also part of the local catchment
system, with creeks flowing into the
Clondamine River, which eventually joins
into the Murray Darling system. I believe
this local river & creek system is
already struggling because of the
water use at all levels - farming
& city dwellers included.

The rhetorical question
"Does a mine need water?" hardly
needs to be raised, let alone answered.
Also I believe it would be verging
on the impossible to restore the
land to its current state, after a
perhaps 20 year? - mining process.

That is not even considering
the interim effects on local
families, & community structure, if
a mining process was allowed.

Regards,

Gordon HILDRETT