

Our hamlet is a community of families who have lived in this region for generations as well as people who have moved here to enjoy the rural productive lifestyles that exist.

The Cherry Tree Hill-Mt Vincent massif is 1100 metres above sea level and consists of rich basalt soils, naturally occurring springs, swamps, streams and creeks. Unfortunately for our lifestyle, and especially the symbiotic relationship between our farming and water resources, there is coal beneath our properties, local crown lands and Aboriginal reserves.

We need the protection of the federal government. The current exploitation of coal mining in NSW is pitiful to say the least. The current corruption issues in nearby Bylong Valley leaves all of us wondering just how much greed influences decision making at state level.

Another local coal mine at Cullen Bullen also enshrines the state's inability to manage environmental issues that naturally conflict with revenues raised from royalties. again, this needs federal oversight.

Our local groundwater not only forms the backbone of our farming community but is also important for other reasons. These include:-

- \* Habitat for platypi and native water rats,
- \* recreation use such as fishing,
- \* scenery and swimming to encourage tourism and sustainable ecotourism.

Our community needs the added protection of federal legislation to safeguard our most precious resource. Please help us.

Yours sincerely

Guy Sim