

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
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Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Inquiry In to the Impact of Mining on the Murray Basin

My submission pertains to a particular area of the Darling Downs known locally as the Brigalow Flood Plains which is drained by two main waterways, the Jinghi Creek and the Jandowae Creek which flow into the Condamine River. In periods of high rainfall these two creeks overflow and join up as a massive flood plain although it is far from being a "plain" as it was originally heavily timbered by Brigalow scrub.

Tarong Energy owns a large coal deposit (MDL 383) covering approximately 13000 hectares in the centre of this region. Tarong Energy Company is owned by the Qld. Government who plans to sell or mine the deposit to feed Coal Fired Power Stations. This is a very sensitive and fragile area prone to ponding and over the years the Brigalow Floodplains Landcare Group has won several awards for management of land and water issues in this area.

If this development is allowed to proceed, it will cause massive disruption to overland water flow and is likely to cause toxic pollution to run off water flowing into the Condamine River. We have already seen with the Fitzroy Basin in Central Queensland and similar areas in North Queensland.

Another concern is in the storage of millions of mega litres of saline Coal seam Methane Gas water in open ponds. This is a disaster waiting to happen, when a burst pond will contaminate large areas of good farming country.

Obviously we have a lot of Coal Fired Power Stations which need to be fed. We are led to believe that Queensland has enough coal deposits to provide the current supply for another 300 years. There are major deposits in less sensitive areas so it would seem good sense to mine these deposits and to leave the most sensitive areas for food production.

Yours sincerely
Jeff Taylor