

Submission to Inquiry into the impacts of mining in the Murray Darling Basin

To: Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

From: Janelle Cox

Background

My family moved to my mother's family farm when I was six years old. My father always told me never to marry a farmer, but as luck would have it, I did... My husband is a fifth generation farmer and together we farm on the very fertile Haystack Plain, Warra...

We love the lifestyle for our two children and ourselves. We are proud of our profession and farming is our lifestyle... Twelve months ago, we received a letter from Tarong energy stating that they had a Mineral Development Lease over our properties.

It rocked my world to think that they want to destroy such productive land for 30 years worth of coal, when we already have 300 years worth of coal.

As a mother of young children I worry what they will be eating and feeding their families in the future.

Submission

Deputy Premier Paul Lucas said, "Mining is temporary, we must ensure that our communities survive after mining. I cannot see that our community will survive. The community does boom while the mines are being built, but many of the contractors are not locals they live onsite on their shifts and then fly home to wherever that may be.

There are many businesses in our local towns that are "RURAL SUPPLIES", what happens to these businesses and their families when there are very few farmers left.

As young farmers, we are wanting to make improvements to our farms, but we fear we are throwing money away when we have the Tarong Energy MDL 383 looming over our heads.

Many of the farmers on the Haystack Plain have a few farms scattered around, if there was an open cut mine in the middle of it, shifting machinery would be a nightmare. Not to mention the disturbance it would cause to the slopes of 0.02% on the floodplain.

If mining continues to go ahead on prime agricultural land what will happen to our food source, I feel we should protect Australia so we can feed ourselves first and then help other countries in need, we don't want to be the ones needing, especially since we have the food bowls there in the first place.

According to an United Nations report, we need to produce as much food between now and 2050 as we have in the last 10,000 years.

Summary

We need a plan to protect our prime farming areas and a plan for the best mining areas.

We need a plan to protect the Murray Darling River system against contamination.

We need a plan for our future generations so that they have food.

Thank You

Janelle Cox