

Please protect our water from mining. I grew up in Appin, on country that has been used by my ancestors for tens of thousands of years, and in my lifetime, I have seen mining ruin my local waterhole, where the water no longer runs. Coal mining made the land crack and the water ran through the cracks is all the explanation I have. Government made these bad decisions to sell our land to these miners, and it is now destroyed within my own lifetime. My ancestors lived in the Braidwood area, and we now live all around from Sydney city down to the coast at Moruya, inland to Braidwood and Goulburn and now my small family unit live in Camden. All of this area is essential to us following our traditions, remembering our ancestors, learning our culture and having it available to our next generations. I can no longer walk in the bush of my tiny home in Appin and drink from the creek, please don't allow coal seam gas in my community, we can not afford it, you don't need it, and have no right to sell our precious land and lock it away forever. Please protect us and empower us Aboriginal people to have a role in protecting our homelands.