

TO: Bill Heffernan
Mark Coulton
Heath Webb

FROM: Tom Lyons

DATE: 29.8.11

SUBJECT: MINING ENQUIRY

I am concerned with the direction the comment and debate is taking on the mining issue.

Australia's most important asset is our valuable farming country which can never be reclaimed for productivity if it is mined.

The Liverpool Plains have made a very strong case for their prime land.

There is comparable country from the Queensland border to Victoria west of the Great Divide which must be protected from mining abuse. The land will not survive this proposed degradation.

The water issue is the gravest aspect. Over the past 10 years or more due to the droughts which have beset our Nation – water, or the loss of it, has taken priority.

Much has been written about the water problem and the causes – enquiries and meetings and untold forums have been held. The cities, the towns, the properties were all affected in some way. As water is our most valuable commodity – the Great Artesian Basin must be protected at all costs.

There appears to be a lack of determination and will power by our Authorities as to which side to take – the side of the valuable mining dollar, which as Paul Cleary points out in his book about Mining, may only last a few generations, or, will they take the side for water?

There is always a bottom to the 'quarry' – then what have you got? More importantly, what has been damaged on the way down or sucked out by CSG Mining?

No expert can state with certainty that our aquifers will not be severed or that our Great Artesian Basin won't be contaminated. Should that occur, who can repair it and how are they going to repair it? We must not depend on the Mining company's personnel as the authority as to what might result. We must not accept their statements that they have everything in hand. Rubbish!!

Mining is very important to this Nation – we all concur with that idea – but not at any cost.

In summary:

1. Before any right to mine is given a very thorough EIS should be carried out - relating in particular to water.
2. All valuable farming and grazing land must be protected.

Thank you

TOM LYONS