The Senate

Select Committee on Agricultural and Related Industries

Food production in Australia

Second interim report



Membership of the Committee

Members

Senator the Hon. Bill Heffernan, Chair
Senator Kerry O'Brien, Deputy Chair
Senator Mary Jo Fisher
Senator Christine Milne
Senator Fiona Nash
Senator Glenn Sterle
New South Wales, LP
South Australia, LP
New South Wales, NPA
Western Australia, ALP

Participating members participating in this inquiry

Senator John Williams New South Wales, NPA

Secretariat

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe, Secretary Mr Peter Short, Principal Research Officer Ms Sophia Fernandes, Executive Assistant Ms Lauren McDougall, Executive Assistant

PO Box 6100 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Ph: 02 6277 3511 Fax: 02 6277 5811

E-mail: agriculture.sen@aph.gov.au

Internet: http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/agric_ctte/index.htm

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| Membership of Committee | iii |
|--|-----|
| Chapter 1 | 1 |
| Introduction | |
| Conduct of the inquiry | 1 |
| The committee's second interim report | 1 |
| Acknowledgements | 2 |
| Chapter 2 | 3 |
| Issues | |
| Background | 3 |
| Regulatory arrangements | 5 |
| Role of the Planning Minister | 8 |
| Mining on the ridges | 11 |
| Water security | 14 |
| Other environmental and health impacts | 16 |
| Impact of mining in other areas | 17 |
| Gas exploration and drilling | 18 |
| Committee view | 22 |
| APPENDIX 1 | 25 |
| Submissions Received as at 27 November 2009 | |
| APPENDIX 2 | 29 |
| Witnesses who appeared before the committee at the public hearings | |
| APPENDIX 3 | 31 |
| Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) – Part 5 | |