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FOOD SECURITY VERSUS COAL

Dear Senator Heffernan,

The Liverpool Plains area is prime agricultural land. Most farmers farm with a love and passion for producing quality and see their land as something to be nurtured for future generations. Each generations goal is to leave the land in better condition than it was.

This philosophy is very different from businesses that seek to exploit the land, the water, the air, the communities, the flora and fauna.

The Liverpool plains is a very stable area, it supports diverse, functioning communities. The Walhallow aboriginal community, at Caroona is an example.

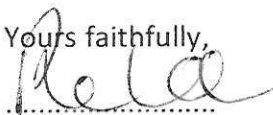
The area owes its stability to the magnificent soils and high quality aquifers in the region. The aquifers on our property have been tested and the water is over 40,000 years old.

Crop yields here are consistently 40% above the national average. We are rarely drought affected and are part of the Namoi catchment, which feeds into the Murray Darling Basin.

We contribute at least \$332,000,000 to G.D.P from our top five agricultural commodities ie. Cattle, cereal crops, sorghum, wheat, cotton and barley. We also produce maize, chickpeas, soybeans, canola, olives, turkeys, pigs, lambs and wool. Over 1,000 agricultural enterprises support this diverse wealth of food production.

We are holding a market/produce day in September to showcase the magnificent foods from our area. Come and see, taste and enjoy our beautiful food.

Please ensure we retain our balanced region by keeping new coal mines out!

Yours faithfully,  


PRUE LEE.

P.S. The Caroona coal action group's website is [www.ccaq.org.au](http://www.ccaq.org.au)