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9<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Sen Hon  
ELECTOR

Senator the Hon Bill Heffernan  
Suite 703, Westfield Towers, 100 William Street  
Sydney, NSW 2011

Dear Senator the Hon Heffernan,

As a farmer on the Liverpool Plains of New South Wales and a very concerned citizen of this wonderful country, Australia, I am writing to you about the planned mining by BHP of the Liverpool Plains of New South Wales.

Much has been said lately by our politicians on both sides of politics, Penny Wong & Malcolm Turnbull included, about the importance of "food security", protecting our productive land to produce food for our nation. Yet the NSW State Government is prepared to destroy the Liverpool Plains for the short term gain of mining coal.

The Liverpool Plains of NSW consists of the most fertile and productive farming land in the country. It is a key contributor to the nations food supplies, GDP and export income. It is farmed by THE most progressive farmers in the country & indeed the world, who employ sustainable farming techniques that will continue to feed our nation for generations. It is situated in a very blessed area so that the impact of drought is minimal. The Liverpool Plains has NEVER missed a crop and in fact regularly produces three crops in two years. The Liverpool Plains have well managed reliable water supplies which are part of the nationally important Murray Darling Basin. I implore you, look at the Caroon Coal Action Groups web site for more details [www.ccag.org.au](http://www.ccag.org.au). See what the NSW State government wishes to destroy.

Compare with this the impact of coal mining. The degradation that WILL occur. The pollution of this productive farming land & water supply by cyanides, halide, sulphides, heavy metals, radioactives, carcinogenic benzenes, nickel, iron, selenium & silica-based dusts. The loss forever, of extremely productive land for the short term gain of coal.

Just how will we feed our nation? Do we wish to rely on imports from countries that can't feed their our populations? I say no, we do not. That is why it is SO important to protect this valuable national resource.

I am calling on the Australian Government to Legislate to Protect Australia's Prime Agriculture Land and have it treated as a National Asset. As a Senator in this Government I am asking you to vote in favour of this legislation.

Please come and see for yourself what is at stake. Visit the Liverpool Plains. The Caroon Coal Action Group would love to show you what we are talking about. As they say "seeing is believing" and "they aren't making any more of it"

Yours sincerely



Marilyn Carter .