

COPY

RECEIVED

23 MAR 2009

Sen Hon
ELECT

16th March 2009

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

Dear Senator the Hon Heffernan,

I am writing to you in regard to our **Nations Food Security**. Australia now has less than 6% arable land, (prime agricultural land being only a fraction of the total arable land) and this is declining every year. As food demand will rise 110% over the next 40 years, it is essential that this prime agricultural land is protected not only for us, but for future generations.

The Liverpool Plains is prime agricultural land with exceptionally fertile volcanic soil, which is capable of producing **summer** and **winter** crops. It produces crop yields 40% above the national average and produces over one third of NSW's total summer crop output. If these soils structures are damaged by subsidence or contamination by gas extraction or the removal of coal, they will be unable to be farmed in the future.

The Liverpool Plains is part of the Namoi Catchment, which feeds into the Murray Darling Basin. Water is such a crucial part of Australia's future. Many parts of Australia have been in drought for years. The Liverpool Plains is rarely affected, it has such a reliable summer and winter rainfall making it one of the most exceptional agricultural areas not only in Australia, but the world over.


We are a community which takes pride in the way that we look after our land, so as it can be passed down to the next generation, who will continue going on to produce food for the families of Australia. Surely this is important to every individual who has children and grand children. They will be the one's affected by food and water shortages if steps are not taken to protect our productive agricultural land.

There has been far too much inappropriate development, especially those relating to coal and gas mining. I am asking you to please think of the security and health of future generations. **We need to protect this Prime Agricultural Land.**

Short term monetary gain, which ultimately ends up in the pockets of overseas shareholders, **should not be at the expense of long term sustainable agricultural productivity.**

The Liverpool Plains should be treated as a National Asset. Protection of this Prime Agricultural Land will ensure food security and also offer us export growth and international leverage as food demand rises.

Yours faithfully


Julie Prowse