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Sen Hon W Hens.  
ELECTORATE OFFICE

Senator the Hon Bill Heffernan  
Suite 703  
Westfield Tower  
SYDNEY 2011

19 March 2009

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24 MAR 2009  
Canberra CB

Dear Senator Heffernan

RE LIVERPOOL PLAINS, NEW SOUTH WALES, PRODUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY.

I am sure you are well aware of the ongoing struggle we are having to preserve the Liverpool Plains from coal mining, in particular, and mining in general.

Food security is such an important part of all our futures and the State's decision to Allow BHP, China and who knows who else to mine our country is madness. There are many other areas that are less productive that could produce for them. I am attaching a potted version of the statistics for production of our area, which you may know but please help our cause.

Yours sincerely



Sue Patchett  
SOS LIVERPOOL PLAINS

Enc: 2



- Crop yields are consistently 40% above the national average (ABARE)
- Produces 35% (over one third) of NSW total summer crop output (ABARE)
- Reliable summer and winter rainfall (GeoScience Australia)
- Well-managed, high-output aquifers (NAMS)
- Part of the Namoi Catchment, feeding into the Murray Darling Basin (NAMS)
- High water holding capacity, exceptionally fertile volcanic soils (NAMS)
- Capable of producing summer and winter crops; 3 crops in 2 years is not unusual.
- Rarely drought-affected
- Arable land in Australia was 6.15% in 2005, down from 6.88% in 1998. When statistics are updated shortly, assuming the same rate of change, (especially wrt exponential mining boom land grab during 2005-2008) arable land can be expected to be just 5.75% in 2009. Less than 6%. Prime agricultural land is a fraction of the arable total. (CIA Factbook)
- We contribute at least \$332 million to GDP from our top 5 agricultural commodities alone (cattle, cereals, sorghum, wheat, cotton/barley) (NAMS).
- \$110 million is generated in beef production alone. (NAMS)
- Soils are exceptionally versatile, we also produce: maize, chickpeas, soybeans, triticale, mungbeans, canola, olives, turkey/pigs/lamb and wool, many of these products for export. (ABARE)
- Over 1000 agricultural enterprises support the diverse wealth of food production. (NAMS)

*Production stats: using ABARE's 16 year average figures, we produce sufficient raw materials for:*

- 365 million loaves of bread (that's a million loaves every day) (wheat)
- 62.5 million packets of pasta (durum wheat)
- 144 million bottles of beer (barley)
- 5.4 million packs of muesli (oats)
- 8 million litres of sunflower oil (sunflower seeds)
- 58 million boxes of cornflakes (Liverpool Plains are *the* preferred supplier to Kellogs' Nutrigrain products)
- 276 million pairs of jeans
- 5.5 billion pairs of socks
- 886 million bath towels

We also produce 233,000 tonnes of sorghum to feed cattle, pigs and chickens resulting in *approximately:-*

- 29 million kg of beef (that's 5.8 million 200g steaks)
- 77 million kg of pork (that's about 906 million thick-cut sausages, sufficient to wrap 3 x around the World )
- 90 million chickens (which also produce eggs)
- and don't forget 'other' crops such as : corn, chickpeas, soybeans, canola oil, olives.....
- 'other' meats such as turkey, lamb and mutton
- and woollen clothing.

*Compare and contrast:-*

The food we grow contains: high-grade protein, carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals, anti-oxidants & fibre.

Coal contains carbon, cyanides, halides, sulphides, heavy metals (lead, arsenic, cadmium, mercury), radioactives (uranium, thorium), carcinogenic benzenes, nickel, iron, selenium, silica-based dusts etc



Local communities have a 70% increase in kidney diseases; 64% increases in respiratory diseases; 30% increase in high blood pressure.

- *Australia* is the world's 7th largest supplier of agriculture and food exports and ranked 1st for beef and barley exports, 3rd for wheat and dairy. It is also a significant supplier of lamb and live animals. Exports average A\$25 billion pa. (DFAT)
- *Australia's top food export markets* are led by Japan at 20% (\$4.5 billion), US at 13% (\$2.9 billion), Korea at 8% (\$1.7 billion), Indonesia at 7% (A\$1.6 billion), NZ, UK, Hong Kong, Malaysia & China (3%).
- *Food quality, traceability and security is very important to Japan, our major export market.*
- *According to Professor Julian Cribb of UTS:-*
  - In each of the last 7 years the world has consumed more grain than its farmers have been able to produce.
  - Grain reserves are at their lowest level in 50 years.
  - Total world food demand is forecast to rise 110% in the next 40 years (9.1 billion population by 2050)
  - 'Peak land' is now a consideration – we are losing arable land to other uses just when half the world's major fisheries are forecast to collapse by 2040 throwing demand further onto land-based farming
  - Farming output will need to double using only 2/3 of today's water volumes
  - Best summed up by an old Spanish proverb "*civilisation and anarchy are only seven meals apart*".

Raw production data: (16 year average DPI data):

83,488 tonnes wheat	63,709 tonnes barley	5,438 tonnes oats	19,829 tonnes
sunflowers			
33,175 tonnes sorghum	29,018 tonnes corn	2,126 tonnes soybeans	1,285,178 bales cotton