

**YOU
CAN'T HAVE
YOUR COAL & EAT TOO**
NO MINES ON LIVERPOOL PLAINS - YOUR FOOD BOWL

Dear Senator,

We'd like to bring to your attention the potential damage that coal mining and coal seam gas extraction will create on the Liverpool Plains in North Western N.S.W---IF it is allowed to go ahead.

Only 6% of our nation has valuable farming country. The Liverpool Plains falls into this percentage and contributes heavily in Food Production and must be considered and protected as " a Crucial Food Security Zone "

Underneath this fertile alluvial soil flow ancient, vast , fragile , aquifers that should not be tampered with unless a thorough long term water study is completed before any mining is allowed to begin. These aquifers have serviced agriculture in our area for over 150 years.

Human Interference with nature and natural forces has never been nor ever will be successful without incurring ongoing irreparable environmental damage. Remember Octedi in Papua New Guinea , and the Santos Mud Disaster in Indonesia and the list goes on. The Hunter Valley is also showing growing human health issues and deep environmental scarring from large scale mining that has made the Hunter Valley unrecognisable.

Marius Kloppers (last July SMH—CEO BHP) was quoted " You get in , you get the resource out and sell it to the customer" The N.S.W Government and their Part 3A Planning Laws have unbelievably always favoured and indeed encouraged these many varied mining companies from all over the world because the state needs the revenue. Whilst all communities involved are left staggering at the many layers of damage incurred . These thoughtless uncaring mega giants move on looking for more resources.

As farmers on the Liverpool Plains we are but caretakers of the land for many generations to come. As our political representative you too , share the responsibility as caretakers and guardians of this valuable highly productive land.

The Liverpool Plains according to statistics, contributes to the Nation's food supplies, GDP and exports crops yielding 40% above the national average year on year. We are also part of the Murray Darling Basin.

We are calling on the Government to Legislate to Protect Australia's Prime Agricultural Land (Breeza Plains, Haystack Plains-Queensland, Gloucester, Darling Downs and Liverpool Plains). To have it treated as a national asset . Protection of these areas will secure our domestic food supply and offer us export growth and international leverage as food demand rises 110% over the next 40 years. The onus is yours to secure this " Crucial Food Security Zone" for ongoing food production well into our great, great , grandchildren's future without interference or divisiveness from mining companies.

This is an extremely serious situation that requires your immediate attention. We have a website that may demonstrate our situation further.www.ccag.org.au

We also invite you to visit our region at your earliest possible convenience. We look forward to your reply.

Yours Sincerely,

Margaret Wilmoth

RECEIVED

18 MAR 2009

Senator the Hon. Ian Macdonald