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Sen Hon W Heffernan
ELECTORATE OFFICE

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and
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Cliffdale 11 March 2009

Re: Food Security in Australia.

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

Dear Senator Heffernan,

I am writing to you to bring to your attention the impending threat from coal mining and coal seam gas extraction in one of our country's prime food producing areas, the Mooki River Valley within the Liverpool plains.

This area is one of the more fertile and productive areas in Australia because it is blessed with fertile soils and has a reasonable moderate climate with good rainfall (by Australian standards). Coupled with the availability of sub artesian irrigation water allows for the production of a great variety of food crops important to feeding our population with locally grown food and supplying the export market for an ever growing world population.

I urge you, Senator, to bring forward legislation to protect Australia's prime agriculture land from destruction by coal mining and coal seam gas extraction companies for short term monetary gain.

An analysis has been done by D. Walker LPLMC, that while coal will produce an income for possibly 50 years. In 70 years the value of Agricultural production will have overhauled coal income and will continue to feed our country for centuries, as it has done in this area for the past 180 years.

I would also remind you that this Valley feeds into the already stressed Murray Darling River system which does not need polluted water from coal mining and coal seam gas extraction to add to its woes.

Again Senator, I urge you to help protect one of Australia's Prime Food Producing areas.

Yours faithfully

