

Regarding food production in Australia, we need a government who acts for the future of Australia's grandchildren and their grandchildren. It is with constant disappointment that governments are for the here and now. It will take a strong, visionary government who can see beyond the \$\$ of coal mining and see the \$\$ and logical sense in protecting viable agricultural land that has defied the drought and current recession.

The Liverpool Plains area on NSW is renowned world wide as one of the best agricultural areas. Not only does it consist of rich alluvial plains which have a very high return of food production p/acre it has aquifers that feed rivers and towns far and wide.

I am concerned about the future of The Liverpool Plains and its agricultural production which is at risk from coal mining. I wish to clarify that I am not against mining where the mines are located on barren useless land but I am against mining rich alluvial plains which have ancient aquifers (a vital water source to Australia) underneath. Regarding the aquifers; Bhp wishes to mine the ridges at which locals who have lived in the area for generations laugh. How does water get from one side of the hill to the other? Everyone knows the water must somehow travel through the ridges and hills. Their diagrams show how they propose to mine down through the aquifers but not what happens when the aquifer shelf collapses or they remove their drills.

Q: Has the government considered the price of food (core staple food production) once the mining industry has destroyed the land on which it is grown

Q: Is the government naive to believe that the land will not be affected? The majority of the Caroonah and Gunnedah area is a floodplain. With long wall mining even .5 metre of subsidence will create unproductive swamp-land in the future.

Q: Should the mine go ahead do you think you will be remembered as the ones responsible for destroying the land?

Q: Regarding employment and boosting local economies. The local school at Werris Creek, St James closed down two weeks ago due to lack of numbers yet the mine started there approximately 3 years ago. It is my understanding the mine brings their workforce in on a weekly basis. Is this a reason for mining the land?

I propose that all agricultural significant land be sighted as of national significance and set aside for agricultural use only. Our food and water resources are too precious to risk any possibility of contamination from mining and must be seen as a high priority by governments.

Sustainability

Simple - What are the basics for human survival? – Food + Water.

Phoebe Clift