

**Submission  
No 578**

## **INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS**

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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 black soil plains which have a very high return p/acre it has aquifers that feed rivers and towns far and wide.

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 and would be threatened with the proposed gas line.

Q: Has the government considered the future 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 Carroona and Gunnedah area is a floodplain. With the high probability of subsidence causing an unproductive swamp-land in the future. The area already goes under water with its natural rain fall.

Q: Regarding employment and boosting local economies. The local school at Werris Creek, St James closed down last year due to lack of numbers yet the mine started there approximately 5 years ago. It is my understanding the mine brings their own transient workforce in on a weekly basis. Mining employs 2% of Australia's workforce. Is this a reason for mining the land?

This gasline proposal is short term thinking where will clean unpolluted food for our future generations come from. This area is so fertile that in the future it could grow anything be it mass production of lettuces or cabbages if so required. 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 our governments.

Sustainability

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

Yours sincerely

Phoebe and Ben Clift