

Submission  
No 27

**INQUIRY INTO PETROLEUM (ONSHORE) AMENDMENT  
(CANCELLATION OF ZOMBIE PETROLEUM  
EXPLORATION LICENCES) BILL 2021**

**Organisation:** NSW Farmers' Association

**Date Received:** 9 July 2021

---



09 July 2021

The Chair  
Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry, Legislative Council  
6 Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
Email: [portfoliocommittee4@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:portfoliocommittee4@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Banasiak

**RE: Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 and Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021**

NSW Farmers Association (NSW Farmers) is Australia's largest state farming organisation, representing the majority of commercial farm businesses in New South Wales, ranging from broad-acre livestock, dairy, wool and grain producers, to more specialised producers in the horticulture, egg, pork, oyster and goat industries.

NSW Farmers would like to share with the Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry, our comments on coal and gas exploration and extraction; however, we will not be commenting on the specifics of the proposed *Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021* and *Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021*.

NSW Farmers' longstanding position on mining and gas is that productive agricultural land and water resources should be protected from the impacts of extractive industries including coal and gas exploration and production activities. Additionally, we seek that comprehensive baseline studies for water resources, air quality and soil conditions are conducted, and that groundwater aquifers are mapped and monitored to better understand and evaluate the potential impact cumulative coal and gas exploration and extraction would have on this critical resource.

NSW Farmers also seeks that exploration licences of expired and inactive petroleum exploration licences be extinguished. Applications to renew an existing exploration licence should be submitted and assessed prior to the end of the licence term. An explorer should not be able to continue exploration activities under an expired licence while an application for renewal is being process/considered.

NSW Farmers is happy to provide further information about the issues raised in this submission, if this would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Bronwyn Petrie  
NSW Farmers Conservation and Resource Management Committee Chair

**NSW Farmers' Association**

ABN 31 000 004 651 PO Box 459 St Leonards NSW 1590 Level 4 154 Pacific Highway St Leonards NSW 2065  
Member Service Centre 1300 794 000 T 02 9478 1000 F 02 8282 4500 [www.nswfarmers.org.au](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au)