



18-9-9

The Secretary  
SCE  
P.O. Box 6100

Dear Sir - Madam

I write with regard to an area on the Darling Downs (Felton) just outside Toowoomba. I have lived most of my sixty-five years within an hour's drive of this & similar areas on the Downs. Currently, an application to mine coal in the Felton area is under consideration.

Felton is fairly typical Darling Downs country. Basically fairly level creek flats, edged by slow lying hills which generally have retained most of their natural vegetation. Currently used for grain growing and grazing, the land is regarded as some of the best cropping land in Australia (the world?). The current wheat & barley crops, in their "green" state, look pretty bloody good.

(Irrelevant) comment by a friend of

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mine, driving through the area just  
on sundown a few days ago.

"I thought I'd died, & gone to Heaven."

Felton, & the neighbouring areas,  
are also part of the local catchment  
system, with creeks flowing into the  
Condamine River, which eventually joins  
into the Murray Darling system. I believe  
this local river & creek system is  
already struggling because of the  
water use at all levels - farming  
& city dwellers included.

The rhetorical question  
"Does a mine need water?" hardly  
needs to be raised, let alone answered.  
Also I believe it would be verging  
on the impossible to restore the  
land to its current state, after a  
perhaps 20 year? - mining process.

That is not even considering  
the interim effects on local  
families, & community structure, if  
a mining process was allowed.

Regards,

Gordon HILDRETT