

Submission from:

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Senate Inquiry into the impacts of mining in the Murray Darling Basin

Given the potential risks to the wellbeing of the environment and socio-economic structure of communities of the Murray Darling Basin (MDB) both adjacent to and downstream from mining and gas exploitation, I urge the Senate Enquiry to consider –

- a) The importance to the Nation of preserving one of, if not the most sustainable productive area of land in the country, namely the Liverpool Plains of the Namoi River tributary of the MDB. Potentially the ‘food bowl’ of eastern Australia with the apparent demise of lower MD irrigation areas. Further I submit that the Liverpool Plains be declared a part of Australia’s national security and in doing so prevent any exploitation of minerals that may jeopardize this invaluable resource.
- b) In the event of any further mineral exploitation taking place, that wide ranging independent studies be undertaken into the potential effects on both the environment and socio-economic infrastructure of communities in the MDB.
- c) The effects on water supplies and the atmosphere of future secondary developments such as new coal fired power stations.

With thanks