

Committee Secretary,

I am a land owner on the western side of the Liverpool Range about 35kms west of Willow Tree.

There are three creeks that run through the property that flow onto the Liverpool Plains and after heavy rains these creeks flood over the Plains.

The aquifers that provide water for the property are connected to the water table on the Plains. The water table on the southern end of the Plains is relatively shallow and too much pumping for irrigation will affect the level in our aquifers.

In the report into the Murray Darling Basin there was no or little comment on that effect of coal seam gas mining might have on the water supply to the Murray Darling Basin. I assume the reason for this was the report only concerned itself with surface water.

Given the vast quantities of water that will need to be pumped out of coal seams to release the gas the question that needs an answer is "Will coal seam gas mining effect the level of water in the surface aquifers" .Is there a risk that the aquifers are connected and water will drain from the surface aquifers to replace water pumped out to release the gas?

If there is an inter connection between the aquifers it would create a very serious problem for farmers and the productivity of their land if coal seam gas mining was allowed on the Plains.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Barry