

ATTENTION



The Senate

Standing Committee on Environment
& Communications

Inquiry into the status, health &
Sustainability of Australia's koala
Population

Further to my phone call of 22nd February, please find enclosed newspaper article about new mining application. This will exacerbates the situation in this area. The increase in activity & disruption to habitat will expotentially affect koalas in both my area & a substantial area to the east. In the last 200 years there have been many blunders ecologically, but, do we need the top internationally-to be

Australism means to be a bunch of morons bent on exterminating near all of our native mammals.

I failed to signify that due to significant long term health problems that I am unable to appear in person before the Senate Committee.

Gowrie Junction

shapes as coal ghost town



Fourth generation Gowrie Junction dairy farmer Andrew Kath does not believe his dairy farm could co-exist with an open-cut coal mine proposed by Australia Pacific Coal. PICTURE: NEV MADSEN

GOWRIE Junction shapes as the next Darling Downs town to be wiped off the map by Queensland's insatiable coal industry.

Australia Pacific Coal has applied for a coal exploration permit over an area that takes in parts of Gowrie Junction, Kingsthorpe and large expanses of land near the existing Acland coal mine.



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It passes within less than five kilometres of the town of Highfields.

The project, known as East Acland, primarily targets an eight-square-kilometre area that encompasses part of the township of Gowrie Junction where the coal deposits are not under layers of basalt. Australia Pacific Coal, if it

decides to proceed with the project, will, like New Hope, open-cut-mine the area.

Gowrie Junction fourth-generation dairy farmers Andrew and Cassandra Kath admitted they were left speechless when alerted to the exploration application.

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Farmers fear coal mine plan

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Mr Kath said his 100-hectare farm, which supports 180 head of cattle, would struggle to co-exist with a coal mine.

"From what I can see, we'd be in the heart of it," Mr Kath said.

"It will really put us in limbo."

Mayor Peter Taylor said he was not aware of the application, but claimed Toowoomba Regional Council could not influence decision-making.

He said council would not have input into the application of Australia Pacific Coal's mining plans until the company lodged its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

"There are coal leases over the whole

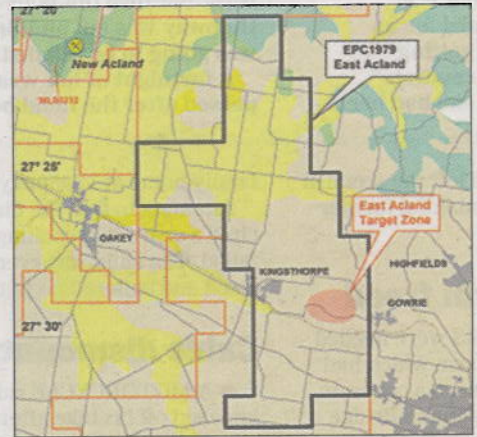
area which we don't deal with directly on a day-to-day basis," Cr Taylor said.

"It's only at the EIS stage that we can make comment."

But Friends of Felton president Rob McCreath, who has fought against a coal-mine project for the past three years, said it was vital for residents of Kingsthorpe and Gowrie Junction that Toowoomba Regional Council spoke up now.

"I think this is quite an important stage because it's the chance for TRC to have a say, not to mention State and Federal MPs," he said.

● Is Gowrie Junction too close to Toowoomba for a coal mine? Vote online at thechronicle.com.au.



A map of the area Australia Pacific Coal is targeting for coal exploration. The section highlighted in red shows the primary focus of the exploration program.