



*The Peak Body for the Australian Organic Sector*

*www.ofa.org.au*

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*From the desk of:*

**Andre Leu, Chairman**

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**Committee Secretary**

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

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**23-09-2009**

**Re: Inquiry into the impacts of mining in the Murray Darling Basin**

The Organic Federation of Australia (OFA) is the peak organisation that represents the organic sector.

The organic industry is the fastest growing agriculture and food sector in the world and is expanding rapidly despite the global slowdown. Our research shows that it is worth over a billion dollars to the Australian economy and that it is no longer a minor industry.

The Australian organic industry has a shortage of supply of quality certified products and we are currently importing over 60% of the products being sold at retail outlets.

We have serious concerns that mining activity in the Felton Valley, Queensland, will impact adversely on some of Australia's most productive certified organic farmland.

The world has a shortage of high quality arable farmland and especially high quality certified organic farmland.

Good farmland must be preserved to ensure adequate food supplies for Australia and the world.

Australia has enormous coal reserves and many of these are in areas that are not suitable for farming and would not impact adversely on farming communities or the head waters of the Murray Darling.

The mine proposal should be developed in areas where it would not have an adverse impact on productive arable land, farming communities and the sensitive Murray Darling catchment.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AL', written in a cursive style.

Andre Leu  
Chairman

**Andre Leu, Chairman, OFA**

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