

Submission to Inquiry into the impacts of mining in the Murray Darling Basin

To: Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

From: Tammy Johnston

Background

I was brought up on a wheat farm on the fertile floodplain called Haystack Plain in Queensland.
This area of prime land which produces wheat, barley, sorghum, mung beans, chick peas, cotton etc does not use irrigation and has been recognized with multiple national Landcare awards for sustainable food production.

Submission

There are very few cropping regions of fertile floodplains within Australia.
(Just 3.5% of Queensland is used to produce crops.)
.There are massive alternate coal reserves elsewhere in Queensland.
Surely there's no need to destroy our most precious agricultural land
We need food but we don't need coal.
Stop mineral development licences and mining licences on prime farmland and exploit coal deposits in areas of low productive capacity.

There has been inadequate planning to provide for the preservation of agricultural land for future food production.
The government's desire for mining royalties ignores the very real threat of a global food crisis.
A farm capable of producing premium food for thousands of years must not be permanently destroyed to allow for 20years of coal mining.
Our obligation to future generations is to protect our food production capacity.

There has never been reclamation of premium farmland in Australia.
Once iconic farmland is mined, it is lost forever.

Summary

The Nation's food security is increasingly being placed at risk by the mining industry.
We mustn't undermine food security in exchange for some short-term profits.
Our premium food-producing lands must be excluded from mineral development.
and protected as a matter of national importance.

Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission on this important issue.

Tammy Johnston