

17 September, 2009

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find this letter my submission to the Senate Committee Inquiry into *the impacts of mining in the Murray Darling Basin*.

It is the truth of the matter that is the single most important issue. That is, **it is water that gives life to every living thing.**

It is surely not worth the risk in mining the highly productive and geological unique Liverpool Plains as coal is an abundant resource that is available in less fertile areas, in places further from shipping ports.

The West Atlas oil leak off Western Australia is a good example of unforeseen problems that can occur underground during resource extraction. The underground water aquifers are simply too important for Australia's food security, now and in the future. Don't let that be jeopardised.

I believe it is your responsibility to my generation to exercise due care and insist that the Liverpool Plains, in the head of the Namoi Valley, be protected for food production.

Yours faithfully,

Marcus Kuhn  
(age 7)