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Watermark Coal Project Submission

Paul Ramsay Agribusiness Pty Ltd owns an aggregation of properties on the Liverpool plains east of the township of Curlewis in New South Wales. The main property having the name 'Gabo' is situated along Pullaming Rd (see attached Map). The combined properties areas is 4450Ha. The farms business activities include irrigation and dry land farming and beef production. Crops grown include wheat, sorghum, sunflower, canola, barley, chick peas, mung beans and cotton.

Paul Ramsay Agribusiness Pty Ltd (PRA) has grave concerns that the Watermark Coal Project (WCP) will disrupt and reduce the water that is discharged onto the plain by the many streams and water courses that emanate from the project area. The water that comes onto the plain from these many discharge points after rainfall events, particularly Watermark gully itself are vital for recharging soil moisture and inflows for the natural bird and animal habitat in the area known as the Curlewis swamp (See maps flow direction). The soft basaltic soils on the plain have a very flat topography with falls around the 1: 2000 mark. This enables the water to travel slowly and be soaked up deeply by the soil and stored. Any reduction of soil moisture recharge and inflows will have a negative effect on our future production.

PRA holds water licences to extract both river and groundwater for irrigation and livestock. We are also concerned the effect that the reduction of water discharges from the WCP area will reduce river inflows and also aquifer recharge. This certainly needs further investigation.

PRA produces cotton with up to 2000Ha in production depending on the season and soil moisture levels. Cotton is graded on fibre length and strength but particularly on whiteness, the biggest discounts are on discolouration. We have concerns that the day in day out activities of open cut coal mining will produce dust that may be carried by the wind and may give discolouration to the cotton fibre when it is ripe.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Kind regards

Tim Gavin
Managing Director