



Attention:- Director, Mining and Industry Projects.

Re:- Watermark Coal Mine.

Application No. SSD – 4975, Watermark Coal Project.

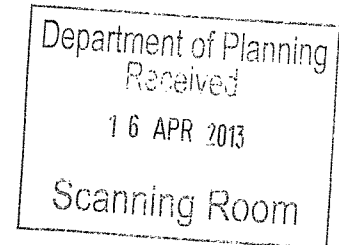
Submission by – Bob Muir

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Disclaimer.

1. I have made no political donations and have no affiliation with any political party.
2. I am a member of the Carroona Coal Action Group but am not a farmer on the Liverpool Plains nor do I have any family connection or interest in any property on the Liverpool Plains.

Submission.

I am writing to you in support of the submission you have received from the Carroona Coal Action Group.

Within my lifetime Australia's population has grown by over 400% and it continues to grow at an ever-increasing rate. Global population is currently approximately seven billion and has an annual increase of about 80 – 90 million.

Fifty years ago the Sydney Basin was virtually self-sufficient in terms of basic staple food. The western suburbs were surrounded by market gardens, piggeries, poultry and dairy farms. Numerous stone orchards were in the Hills District and citrus orchards dominated the Gosford region. These areas have been swamped by Sydney's increasing urbanisation.

The biggest problem facing the global population of future generations will be agricultural production. This is wholly dependent upon available fertile soil and water.

Though the Liverpool Plains has not yet achieved its full potential it is recognised as probably the best farming country in Australia. Its soils are fertile and it has abundant supplies of irrigation water available from its underground water aquifers. Within the next generation it will change from a region of broad acre grain production to one which will progressively supply Sydney with fresh fruit and vegetables. It will be a national tragedy if there is a repetition of the despoliation which has occurred in the Hunter Valley.

It is accepted that damaged aquifers cannot be repaired and as the growth of renewable energy is gaining rapid momentum the haste to exploit Australia of its finite resources should be slowed..

2.

Undoubtedly there is huge potential for growth in Australia's north but as a matter of national security our food production must remain as close as possible to the major regional areas of population and these will remain in the south-east corner of the nation into the foreseeable future.

Any attempt to exploit Australia's prime agricultural land for unsustainable, short-term gain will be a betrayal of future generations of Australians and their international trading partners who will become increasingly dependent upon Australia's food production.

Future generations cannot yet make submissions on their own behalf but their interests must be protected.

Bob Muir.

Quipolly.2343.

Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2013.