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5 May 2013

The Director  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: SSD-4975, Watermark Coal Project**

My wife and I operate a small mixed farming operation around the Mullaley area of the Liverpool Plains. We are very concerned about the encroaching approach of the extractive industries on to highly productive agricultural land.

The Watermark Coal Project has the potential to destroy our previous water resources, and consequently our ability to produce food for our fellow Australians and export to the world.

We are submitting this letter as in opposition to the proposed Watermark Coal Project.

We believe that if the Watermark Coal Project is approved it will have a number of negative impacts to our business, our community and our region.

Some of our concerns include:

- Adverse effects on our water resources. This includes concerns regarding the erosion of recharge zones; contaminated water being released from sedimentary dams; reduction of catchment flows.
- Destruction of ecology of over 4,000ha of vegetation over the life of the current mine proposal.
- Removal of koala's from their local habitat
- Destruction of local aboriginal heritage
- Excessive dust that will be emitted from the project will have a large negative financial impact on local farmers, particular those who grow cotton to which colour distortion is heavily penalised.
- Decrease in quality of life for residents of Breeza, due to the increased industrialisation of their community, and greatly increased noise.

We support the Caroon Coal Action Group's (CCAG's) submission regarding the SSD-4975 Watermark Coal Project

In addition, we have concerns about the amount of oversights that remain in the Agricultural Impact Statement, in particular in terms of:

- the lack of consideration to surrounding areas of the project,
- lack of detail in terms of mitigating any water concerns
- lack of current and credible data in the proponents assertions
- lack of consideration of all legislation and regulations including the Murray Darling Basin.

We support the NSW Farmers submission relating to the Agricultural Impact Statement.

We would urge the Department to ensure that this project is considered under the amendments in the EPBC Act.

Thankyou for your consideration of our concerns.

Kind regards

Paul & Judi Sheedy