

Date:

The Honourable Kristina Keneally
Premier of New South Wales
Level 40
Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Premier Keneally,

Re: Liverpool Plains

As you would be well aware, the Liverpool Plains is an extremely important foodbowl of Australia - reliably producing crops yielding 40% above the national average. It is also in the Namoi Catchment area which is an important catchment area for the ailing Murray - Darling Basin and subsequently the Great Artesian Basin. It s exceedingly difficult to understand why you are would allow it to be explored for coal and coal seam gas.

I am extremely concerned with your Government's refusal to put the environment ahead of coal mining and coal seam gas extraction in particular in such a precious and sensitive area. In the era of climate change, we must ensure mining does not destroy our environment, agricultural production, people's livelihoods and health.

I therefore ask that:

1. the Mining Act 1992 and the Petroleum (onshore) Act 1991 be amended to exclude all mining activities within 1 km from a watercourse.
2. the significant contribution of the Liverpool Plains to food production in New South Wales be recognised and all mining and gas exploration licences be cancelled on this prime agricultural land and for it to be quarantined from any future mining.
3. an immediate mandatory requirement for coal trains to cover their load be implemented and for all coal mines to monitor dust emissions to PM2.5 with non-compliance and excessive emissions resulting in significant fines and shut down in production. Coal dust has been shown to cause and/or exacerbate a wide range of illnesses and to contaminate tank water with heavy metals and other toxic substances

Sincerely,

Name:

Address: