



Caroon Coal Action Group Inc.

www.ccag.org.au PO Box 119 Caroon NSW 2343

All correspondence c/-: Secretary, Mrs Fiona Simson "Plain Station", Bundella 2343

Ph: 02 6747 6251 Fax: 02 6747 6204 E-Mail: plainstation@bigpond.com

CAROONA COAL ACTION GROUP SORGHUM 100 CLUB

NGR 12758812

With more and more landholders now being forced into the arbitration process by BHP Billiton, Caroon Coal Action Group's campaign takes on a whole new meaning. The landholders are standing united and firm behind the environmental protections contained in the CCAG Access Agreement, which BHP has so far steadfastly refused to acknowledge. The campaign is now aimed not only at EL6505, but is also seen by many to be a test case, with far-reaching effects on the whole mining/exploration lease process itself, especially in the Namoi Valley.

We are enforcing in court the landholder's rights to a fair, honest and open process of negotiation. We are questioning the miner's compliance with certain aspects of the Mining Act 1992, and their total disregard for due process in gaining access, and the exploration process itself.

We are also lobbying our local members, both Federal and State, and through them our National and State Parliamentarians to protect the Liverpool Plains and its underground water supplies from any harm that could result from any mining or exploration process, and at the very least to hold the miner responsible for any damage caused. We are demanding that standards of access for exploration and mining are based on excellent science, rather than on any determination that the mining companies themselves may make as to resources and their protection.

Of course these activities come at great expense, and it is likely that the further we go down the track, the more costly it will become. We have approached the Environmental Defender's Office, who is very interested in our case, but even so, the costs are mounting, and we again need to ask for your support. We are very fortunate that our costs as a committee to date have been extremely minimal, with all committee members generously supporting the CCAG.

"We must ensure mining does not destroy our environment, agricultural production, people's livelihoods, health and attachment to the land"



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NGR 12758812 Page 2

Our idea is based on the "100 Club" format, with our goal being to find at least 100 growers who are willing to donate 10 tons of sorghum each. Each grower wins a prize, with the satisfaction of helping to fight for the protection of our water and our environment for generations to come. We have procured an NGR number, which can be quoted on delivery of your grain at any silo, or else a committee member will come and collect it on-farm in the local area if you would prefer. The money will join other donations we have received in the name of the Namoi Valley Environmental Protection Fund. This will ensure that the donated funds remain totally separate and easily identifiable from general CCAG membership monies and activities.

We are of course also only too happy to accept other donations as well. Some landholders have donated the proceeds from a pen of cattle, or other grain, and of course straight cash donations of any size are very welcome too. With the minerals boom continuing in this country, we must ensure that the appropriate checks and balances are in place to allow responsible use of these resources to ensure the viability and productivity of our country well into the future. Although this campaign is currently targeted at the Liverpool Plains, we are hoping that growers right across the Namoi Valley will recognize the possible ramifications of this case on them, and we therefore ask for the support of all grain growers in this important campaign.

We would like to acknowledge and thank you for your donation where possible, so we would encourage you to fill out the donation form and fax back to Fiona Simson on 02 6747 6204. The NGR appears at the top of this letter, and again overleaf, and will be available at all silos ready for your directions at delivery. We thank you for your continued support.

Fiona Simson
Secretary, CCAG

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NAMOI VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
FUND
SORGHUM 100 CLUB PLEDGE

NGR 12758812

Name:

Address:

.....

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Phone:

I am willing to pledge tons of sorghum to assist with the protection of the Liverpool Plains from unsustainable development. I will deliver to silo.

I am willing to pledge tons of sorghum to assist with the protection of the Liverpool Plains from unsustainable development. Please contact me to arrange collection.

I cannot assist with sorghum this year, but would like to donate to help protect the Liverpool Plains from unsustainable development.

All donations will be greatly received and are most welcome. Perhaps you would prefer to donate proceeds from a cattle sale, special skills or contacts you may have, or even sponsor a sign or some other publication. Cash is always welcome. Please don't hesitate to discuss any other fundraising ideas you might have with any members of our committee.

For more information, please phone:

Doug Ranken 0429 473 816

Struan Willis 02 6747 4768

Sandy Blomfield 02 6747 4722

Michael Clift 02 6744 5832

Kate Davidson 02 6744 1752

Robert Clark 02 6747 4601

Fax this page to Fiona Simson 02 6747 6204

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