



Caroona Coal Action Group Inc.

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

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CCAG NEWSLETTER MAY 2008

- **The Grain Drive** has been very well supported, and is still open. Many thanks to those people who have already delivered grain and made other donations to support this very worthy cause. Although a great response, we are still well short of our 100 farmers target, and are still happy to collect sorghum both off-farm and out of the Graincorp warehouse. If you would like to help, please contact Kate Davidson 6744 1752, Fiona Simson 6747 6251, or any member of the CCAG Committee to arrange delivery.
- **The Mining Warden's Court** has ruled in the first of the landholder cases to go through. Unfortunately, as expected, the ruling has been in the miner's favour. Contrary to media reports, landholders are still seeking further legal advice as to the appropriate course of action, but are hoping to take their actions to a higher court. Although the decision is disappointing, we must remember that our strategy to hold BHP to their published environmental standard of zero harm will involve many such hurdles, and access for exploration is but the first step in what will be a very long road, with many opportunities to hold BHP Billiton to account. CCAG remain committed that adequate environmental safeguards and guarantees **must** be in place prior to any further mining or exploration. Landholders in the EL Zone please ring Doug Ranken, Sandy Blomfield or Michael Clift for more information.
- **CCAG Website.** With many thanks to Rod Mackerras, the CCAG website has a whole new look, and is a great source of information about the CCAG, its activities and related information. Its address remains www.ccag.org.au. Rod always welcomes any new ideas or comments, so please contact him directly if you'd like to contribute. We hope to make the website our main source of information, so it is worth checking regularly if you are interested in our activities.
- **SOS Liverpool Plains.** Visit the website for more information about this dedicated, hardworking and passionate group of women who are supporting the CCAG. Their enthusiasm and support is amazing, and it has been a tremendous boost to a very hardworking (but quite tired!) CCAG committee to have such community support. It is fantastic to hear their ideas and see such great results already. If you are interested in joining this group, or just being kept in their loop, please contact either Pauline Roberts 6747 6224 or Sue Willis 6747 4768.
- **Drill logs.** CCAG would like to plot every hole drilled by BHP on a master map. It is essential that we continue to double-check any information given by BHP to the community to ensure that all conditions of the licence agreement are being met, and a map of these holes is a useful resource for the community to have. Please contact John Polglase 6747 6224 or Struan Willis 6747 4768 for more information or to assist.
- **Water Testing.** CCAG continues to have real doubts about BHP's commitments to water testing in the holes that they have drilled. CCAG believe that any water testing carried out by BHP is purely to assist in the establishment of a large coal mine, rather than with any regard for the aquifers, or environmental interest whatsoever. It is essential that proper, independent, deep water testing to a

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standard suitable for human consumption is carried out throughout the entire catchment area prior to any mining activity (and preferably any further exploration activity) is carried out. In order to provide compensation for any possible water quality deterioration or damage, these tests must be suitable for benchmarking, and able to withstand full legal scrutiny. Unfortunately the “water testing” currently offered by BHP Billiton to landholders does not go anywhere close to meeting this criteria. CCAG are currently exploring funding of these tests, and suitable laboratories who might provide a collection service. As soon as they are available, we will let you know, but in the meantime if you would like to know more about them, or register your interest, please refer to the website. If you have the results of comprehensive testing of any bores on your property, John Polglase would love you to share. Please contact John for more info. (6747 6224)

- **Promised Water Study** CCAG continues to pursue through Tony Windsor the comprehensive water study of the entire Liverpool Plains Catchment that was proposed by the LPLMC and promised by Malcolm Turnbull last year. CCAG are advised that current studies proposed by Penny Wong are more useful for measuring damage after it has occurred, rather than assessing whether any damage could be inflicted on the precious aquifer and surface water runoff system operating throughout the Liverpool Plains.
- **Santos Exploration** A delegation from CCAG was recently invited to meet with representatives from Santos concerning their exploration drilling programme for methane gas in this area. You might remember that Santos was responsible for the recent mud volcano during exploration in Indonesia. Unfortunately the meeting gave CCAG even more cause for alarm – more info on the website shortly.
- **Rivers SOS DVD (2)** A delegation from the CCAG attended the launch of this excellent DVD in State Parliament last week. It is now available to show to anyone who is interested in having a look. Pauline Roberts is happy to do a mini road-show – and we would love to show the DVD to as many people as we can. This might be just the thing for your next meeting! Please contact Pauline directly for more info. Ph: 6747 6224.

We appreciate your support.
Fiona Simson, Secretary CCAG

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