



Caroona Coal Action Group Inc.

www.ccag.org.au PO Box 119 Caroona 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

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The Hon Ian Macdonald, MLC
Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources,
Minister for State Development
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY 2000

BY E-MAIL: macdonald.office@macdonald.minister.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Macdonald

The recent Southern Coalfields Enquiry, chaired by University of NSW Professor Bruce Hebblewhite, found that understanding of the damage caused by subsidence was full of "knowledge gaps", requiring more research. The report also stated that the NSW State Government has "a responsibility to provide improved guidance". This only endorses the recently leaked DECC report – a report from one of your own Government Departments which outlines in detail the many cases of extensive irremediable damage across the state as a result of mining activities.

These two reports clearly confirm that the process is flawed, and that the environmental studies organized and paid for by the mining company are nowhere near adequate to avoid such damage.

As Minister for Primary Industries, you must be aware of how valuable and productive the agricultural industry is in the Liverpool Plains. You must be aware that this food producing area cannot be put at risk. You must be aware that current studies do not adequately address the impact of mining either on or off-site. The Caroona Coal Action Group calls on your Government to place a moratorium on any further exploration or drilling in the Liverpool Plains until the completion of a fully independent, catchment-wide hydrological study to assess such risks.

The Caroona Coal Action Group also again invites you to urgently visit the Caroona area and meet with them to discuss their concerns.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Simson, Secretary, CCAG
For Doug Ranken, Chairman CCAG

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