

10 Feb. 2011

The Hon. Tony Kelly
Minister for Planning
Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister,

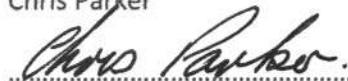
Irresponsible mining approvals have seen the destruction of The Hunter Valley, once a rich fertile Valley supplying both Sydney and Newcastle with fresh food. Its waterways as per a recent study have an alarming increase in algae bloom and this time you can't blame the farmers as they have now been replaced by ugly coal mines. Some are severely contaminated and others have ceased to run at all.

The Greater Bylong Valley and the Upper Goulburn River Catchment remain free of contamination and degradation at this point. Surely the lessons we have learned from the demise of the Hunter Valley and its rivers will ring alarm bells when exploratory mining applications are registered. As a matter of urgency a more rigorous environmental assessment should take place prior to any new mining exploration for both coal and coal seam gas.

I strongly request that prior to any new approvals for mining exploration the Government should commit to undertaking an independent Hydrology study of the Valley and the river system before another river system is destroyed. Furthermore the Government should act immediately to implement a more thorough environmental impact statement prior to any more approvals.

I sincerely hope that you treat this as matter of urgency.

Yours Truly
Chris Parker



GREENS CANDIDATE for THE UPPER HUNTER

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