

# Workings blamed for creek demise

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RON Fenwick remembers when South Wambo Creek flowed across his property at depths of up to eight metres.

Water rarely flows in the creek today due to cracking that occurred as a result of longwall mining beneath it in the mid-1990s.

"It's just a bit of rolling pasture these days," Mr Fenwick, a third generation farmer, said.

The mining company and government departments have made numerous attempts to restore a flow, however nothing has been able to effectively repair the damage to the ancient creek bed.

"When you take the aquifer out of the system everything stops. There isn't one well on my property that works any more," he said.

Mr Fenwick said this was an example of the dangers of mining close to creeks.

- Matthew Kelly



BEFORE: Ron Fenwick's son Garth in the creek in 1989.



AFTER: Ron Fenwick and what is left of South Wambo Creek. - Picture by Peter Stoop