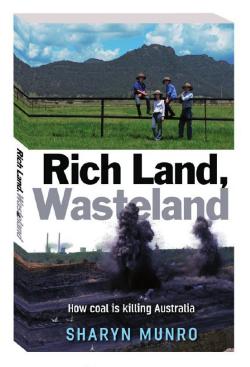
Rich Land, Wasteland

How coal is killing Australia



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Sharyn Munro is a freelance writer, author, essayist and awardwinning short story writer. She lives in the Hunter Valley in NSW.



For nearly a year Sharyn Munro travelled through rural Australia, visiting the communities in coal-mining areas. Here, literally at the coal-face, towns and districts are dying – homeowners and farmers forced out by mining, broken in spirit and in health, or else under threat, their lives and properties in limbo as they battle the might of huge mining companies.

Incidences of asthma, cancers and heart attacks show alarming spikes in communities close to coal mines and coal power stations. Once reliable rivers and aquifers are drying up or becoming polluted. Once fertile agricultural land is becoming unusable. What was once a rich land is becoming a wasteland.

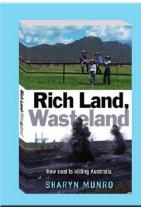
Sharyn Munro exposes the real story of coal in this life-changing book: how people are hurting, and rebelling, as coal pushes into hitherto unthinkable areas; how the true costs really stack up against the benefits of our mining boom; and what's really happening to those individuals and communities who are ultimately paying the price.

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