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18th July, 2015.

The Executive Director,
Resources & Industry Policy,
The Department of Planning & Environment,
GPO Box 39,
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Re: Support to remove clause 12AA of the SEPP

We would like to support the proposal to remove clause 12AA of the SEPP, with the hope that this proposed change occurs quickly to safe guard our communities, our prime agricultural lands and most importantly our aquifers.

As farmers in the Hunter Valley area, we have grave concerns that if this proposal to remove clause 12AA of the SEPP is not implemented soon, rural communities, aquifers and agricultural enterprises will be lost or damaged forever. Our descendants have been farming in the area since the 1840's. Devoted farmers spend their entire lives nurturing and caring for the land for future generations.

We also call on you to put forward further amendments to the Sepp, to help improve a more fairer and balanced outcome.

1. Additional clusters identified through the systematic process needs to be added to the list of critical clusters, in addition to the horse-breeding and wine-growing in the Hunter Valley.
2. In Schedule 1 of the SEPP there needs to be further exclusion zones for coal and gas and a 10km buffer around prime agricultural land, our aquifers, equine and viticulture critical industry clusters and endangered woodlands.
3. Individual residences should be included into the 2km exclusion zones that apply to urban areas and residential zones - for both unconventional gas and coal mining. WHY should people who live in isolated areas be less important than the people who live in more populated areas?
4. Our water resources must be protected, the prohibition must include alluvial aquifers and 2km around fourth order streams in the expanded Part 9A.
5. Also in Part 9A of the SEPP needs to be amended to also include open-cut coal mining prohibited development within the exclusion zones currently applied to coal seam gas.

We respectfully ask that you register our support for the proposal to remove clause 12AA of the SEPP and also seriously consider that the Major Projects Offset policy must be changed to restore the 'like for like' principle on all offsets, and also that the public should be given the right to appeal poor decisions and to have the opportunity of full rights of appeal retained for the betterment of this nation.

Yours sincerely,
Ian Hunter Moore
&
Robyn Ann Moore