

Hi Ms Kibble, Mr Gilligan and Mr Payne. My name is Alex and I am here now, as my grandfather has always been and as my mother has too. I am the sixth generation member of the Simson's to have lived and farmed on the Liverpool Plains. Although my surname is White, I am of the Simson family. I want to continue to have a strong connection to this irreplaceable land, passionate people and numerous opportunities.

As most of you baby boomers and generation X would agree, us generation Y believe we are entitled to everything. Especially without having to do anything to gain everything.

However, I am, as everyone is, entitled to have a choice about clean water, reduced carbon emissions and the production of our land.

I love this land, I love the agriculture and stock work that occurs and I love the abundance of flora and fauna. All this is due to the high quality soils, fresh clean water and healthy environment that this region boasts. In turn this has created one of the most reliable and productive regions in Australia. So how can we be relentlessly pushing the dwindling mining boom in the face of destroying the country's best land and water supply?

There is so much talk and the use of the term sustainability. Reports are full of talking about sustainable practices, management and rehabilitation. But what does this term truly mean? Is it the ability to care and sustain my family? Is it sustainable management of our population, society or the economics of Australia? It is a term easily used and thrown around to cushion future problems and make people feel at ease.

What I am concerned about is how we can have faith and believe that sustainable rehabilitation will, in any way, contribute to the future of Australia. I say the future of Australia, and not just the region in concern, as the threats to the agriculture industry in this area may not just impact the families and businesses here. Will Australia be able to continue to sustain a growing population by threatening food production and water reserves? Will the potential economic benefits of the short term mine way out the long term economics of the agricultural industry? Will the current declining coal and iron ore markets sustain the jobs and economic expectations from the mine?

Are we putting too much risk and faith in the key term sustainable? Once the mine is finished, and the *sustainable* rehabilitation occurs, how and when is a productive industry able to function? It is easy to say that the rehabilitation will be sustainable but will it truly be land that will be useful afterwards, or just some hardy perennials that offer little.

So our generation and future generations should be entitled to truly sustainable environment, long-term economically and productively secure. Now is the time to seize the opportunity and put Australia in the right direction. Now is the chance to give back those choices and opportunities. Now is the time to act and stand up for not just the prosperity of Australia, but the longevity of it too!

~~Enough is enough.~~ This is the wrong mine in the wrong place.

Thank you

