

My name is Tom Simmonds I'm a partner in a family farm partnership and a member of CoBRA (Concerned Borefields Residents Alliance inc) our farms are approximately 1.5 km due east of the proposed Clean TeQ borefield. We have two operational bores that we use periodically throughout the year in conjunction with pumps on the Lachlan River as well as stock and domestic bores. We irrigate crops such as Lucerne, Sorghum, Millet, Wheat, Barley, Oats and other high value niche crops. We also run approximately 6000 merino sheep. We are highly dependent on ground water for our livelihood.

While I'm not wholly opposed to the mine and associated water needs I do question what sort of dysfunctional government and associated departments would rubber stamp a EIS that was done nearly 20 years ago to allow this project to go ahead. I'm dam sure that if any member of the public came forward with a 20 year old EIS they be quickly told to re do it under current environmental rules. The only difference is Clean TeQ are flashing around the billions of dollars investment that the Government lap up like a kid in a candy store.

I hope that the "INDEPENDENT" PLANNING COMMISSION hearing isn't just another government smoke screen which is hell bent on approving any and all mining projects throughout the state to the detriment of the environment and prime farm land. You only have to look up north of the state to see the coal seam gas debacle.

The ENRS company was engaged by Clean TeQ to do a bore census which encompassed approx. 72 land holdings and 155 bores this was within a 10 km radius of the 7 km long proposed borefield this equates to approximately 54,000 hectares of prime farming land all of whom rely on ground water for stock, domestic and irrigation purposes. With the ongoing drought which we have been enduring there is no more precious resource than water.

My biggest concern is there is still nothing in writing prior to this meeting to at least protect our valuable resource from concentrated over extraction. Yes there is talk of trigger levels etc but nothing is documented. You would think that the CleanTeQ company with a near 20year old Environmental Impact Statement they would have rehems of technical data on ground water levels to support their concentrated 24/7 365 days a year extraction, WHERE IS IT?

In my opinion as an irrigator and through anecdotal evidence from my own experience, there is a significant lowering of the watertable of the North Parkes Borefield to the east of Forbes and also the Evolution Lake Cowal Borefield to the south of the proposed Clean TeQ borefield. All of these borefields are in the same Paelio channel, this aquifer is highly stressed from this 24/7 non-stop pumping it is totally unsustainable.

All I ask for is for common sense to prevail with all necessary constraints and triggers to be put in place "BEFORE" this juggernaught is unleashed.

Once the horse has bolted there is no turning back, our ground water is far too precious to be taken for granted.

Thankyou