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Longwall mining debate gagged



Sunday, 03 December 2006

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25 October 2006: When Greens MP Lee Rhiannon moved a motion in Parliament to debate the damage being caused to rivers, creeks and wetlands in NSW as a result of subsidence from longwall mining, the Labor Government and the Opposition refused to debate the issue.

Hunter:

[Hunter](#)

[region](#)

[Anvil Hill](#)

[Upper](#)

[Hunter](#)

[Valley](#)

The major parties talk up their commitment to addressing climate change and protecting the environment, but their rhetoric rings hollow when it counts. The House divided along the following lines:

Upper House MPs who supported the Greens motion:

[Gallery 1](#)

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[Barrington](#)

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Ms Rhiannon, Mr Cohen, Ms Hale, Dr Chesterfield-Evans, Mr Oldfield, Mr Breen.

Upper House MPs who refused to debate the Greens motion:

Central

Coast:

[Mandalong](#)

[Valley](#)

[Background](#)

Mr Brown, Ms Burnswoods, Mr Catanzariti, Mr Clarke, Mr Colless, Mr Costa, Ms Cusack, Mr Della Bosca, Mr Donnelly, Ms Fazio, Miss Gardiner, Mr Gay, Mr Jenkins, Mr Lynn, Mr Macdonald, Mr Mason-Cox, Reverend Dr Moyes, Reverend Nile, Ms Parker, Mrs Pavey, Mr Pearce, Ms Robertson, Mr Ryan, Ms Sharpe, Mr Tsang, Mr West, Mr Harwin, Mr Primrose.

Lee Rhiannon's motion to debate damage caused to rivers by longwall mining:

Southern:

[Illawarra](#)

[Nepean](#)

1. That this House notes:
(a) that in 2005 the Scientific Committee listed longwall coal mining as a key threatening

[River](#) process under the Threatened Species Conservation Act
[Cry me a](#) 1995,
[River](#) (b) that longwall coal mining is wrecking rivers in New
[BHP Billiton](#) South Wales by cracking riverbeds,
[AGM](#) disturbing aquifers, destabilising sandstone cliff
[Georges](#) formations, often resulting in cliff
[River](#) collapse, and causing serious pollution,
Western: (c) that the damage to rivers from mining is placing
[Lithgow](#) undue stress on our water catchments
[Newnes](#) at a time when 92 per cent of New South Wales is in
[Plateau](#) drought, and
[Read Lee's](#) (d) that mining contributes to loss of biodiversity by
[online](#) posing an immediate threat to
[opinion](#) threatened and endangered species and their habitat in
[piece on](#) New South Wales.
[Carr and](#) 2. That this House calls on the Government to:
[global](#) (a) develop a threat abatement plan for longwall coal
[warming ...](#) mining under the Threatened Species
[more](#) Conservation Act 1995 that encompasses all current
[NPWS listed](#) longwall coal mining operations in
[longwall coal](#) New South Wales,
[mining as a](#) (b) enforce a ban on longwall mining underneath all
[key](#) rivers, and
[threatening](#) (c) place a minimum one kilometre mining buffer zone
[process ...](#) around all rivers, creeks, wetlands
[more](#) and all other waterways, including but not limited to
the following 49 rivers:

Gloucester Basin coalfield:

Avon River

Barrington River

Copeland Creek

Gloucester River

Manning River

Gunnedah coalfield:

Mooki River

Upper Namoi River

Newcastle coalfield:

Black Creek

Bowman's Creek

Diega Creek

Eui Creek

Fishery Creek

Foy Brook
Glennies Creek
Hunter River
Jiliby Creek
Kingdon Ponds
Pages River
Wambo Creek
Wyong River

Southern coalfield:
Bargo River
Camp Gully Creek
Duck Creek
Flying Fox Creek
Hacking River
Kembla Creek
Leafs Gully Creek
Lily Pond Gully Creek
Lower and Upper Cataract River
Lower and Upper Nepean River
Mallaty Creek
Native Dog Creek
Ousedale Creek
Stokes Creek
Upper Georges River
Waratah Rivulet
Wongawilli Creek

Western coalfield:
Cox's River
Cumbo Creek
Daylight Creek
Farmers Creek
Goulburn River and gorges
Jew's Creek
Kangaroo Creek
Lett River, Hartley Vale
Moolarben Creek
Neubeck's Creek
Wilpinjong Creek
Wollongambe River.

end

Contact [Lee Rhiannon](#) if you would like to get involved
in *The Greens' Coal Communities campaign*.

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