

Nell Schofield. [REDACTED]

AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS
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To whom it may concern,

The Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper should enshrine the Australian Government's vision and provision of agriculture and food production, nutrition and nurture for all Australians – for those who grow, catch, manufacture, sell, supply, swap – and eat. It should integrate food policy, from production to consumption, aligned with productive, sustainable agriculture and horticulture, aquaculture and vital water management.

The unchecked expansion of coal and gas projects across NSW threatens this basic provision of agriculture. The fact that 80% of the state is under some sort of fossil fuel exploration or extraction licence, puts at risk our very food security in this state.

Food security exists when all communities have equity of access to sufficient, affordable, safe, fresh and nutritious food that meets basic dietary needs to support a healthy lifestyle.

We do not want to be in a position where we import all our food and water because our government policies towards agriculture have allowed this fundamental industry to be undermined and polluted by coal and unconventional gas.

All Australians deserve access to the reliable supply of seasonal, local farm fresh produce. And they have a right to our precious water too.

These must be protected and not destroyed by the short term financial interests of largely foreign owned coal and gas companies.

Your sincerely,

Nell Schofield
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