

RESOLUTION PROPOSED TO SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL
JANUARY 2015 GENERAL MEETING -

RECOMMENDED that the Southern Downs Regional Council resolves to:-

1. recognise the value of mining to the Queensland economy in appropriate locations and that mining is ultimately controlled by the Queensland State Government in consultation with regional councils;
2. support the limited continuation of existing identified mines within the Southern Downs Region provided there are suitable approval conditions to protect the environment and surrounding districts in the short and long term;
3. publicly endorse the intent and provisions of the gazetted Darling Downs Regional Plan to separate urban, agricultural and mining activities within the Southern Downs Region by declaring Priority Agricultural Areas (PAAs).
4. hereby object to any form of coal, oil and/or coal seam gas developments within the Darling Downs Regional Plan's identified Priority Agricultural Areas (PAAs) within the Southern Downs Region;
5. universally object to any form of coal, oil and/or coal seam gas developments on the grounds that co-existence opportunities between the resource sector and the existing agricultural development are impossible because:-
 - (i) the Southern Downs' Priority Agricultural Areas (PAAs) are rural in character but comparatively densely settled with smaller allotments than in other regional areas;
 - (ii) any buffers or other measures are inadequate to address impacts from mining activities upon nearby housing, tourism and agriculture are inadequate;
 - (iii) the impact of resource development upon the stormwater management on the flood plains and especially the fragile underground water supplies within the in Priority Agricultural Areas (PAAs) is unknown and is likely irreversible so it should be refused in accordance with the 'pre-cautionary principle' under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009;
 - (iv) resource sector development will impede the 'right to farm' and is in conflict with the existing high-value agricultural land, rural lifestyle and associated land uses;
 - (v) resource sector development is in conflict with the tourism potential of the Southern Downs with its vistas, clean air, peace-and-quiet and landscape quality;
 - (vi) resource sector development is contrary to the intent of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 in that it will not achieve 'Ecological Sustainability' as a required balance that integrates the protection of ecological processes, economic development and the social wellbeing of people and communities; and
 - (vii) there is an unacceptable potential impact on the condition and safety of local rural and the State road and rail network between the source of minerals, mines and ports.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that the Southern Downs Regional Council therefore resolves to:-

- (i) not to issue any approvals nor permits for any works on road reserves, easements, reserves or any other land controlled by Council for the purposes of resource sector development; and
- (ii) remove all delegations to the Chief Executive Officer for the same.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that before the 2015 State Government election, Council immediately write to the Premier, Opposition Leader, member for the Southern Downs, relevant Ministers and Directors General to accordingly advise this resolution.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that Council commence discussions with the relevant State Government officers with a view of amending legislation to increase the protection of urban areas especially villages in the Southern Downs Region as 'Priority Living Areas'.