



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Greens to move Windsor amendment to Water Bill on Liverpool Plains mining impacts on groundwater systems

Following a visit to the Liverpool Plains recently by Australian Greens Leader, Senator Bob Brown, the Australian Greens will be moving the same amendment to the Water Amendment Bill 2008 in the Senate as moved by the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor in the House of Representatives to get to know the impacts of the proposed mining of the Liverpool Plains on its groundwater systems.

Mr Windsor moved that “Prior to exploration licences being granted for subsidence mining operations on alluvial floodplains that have underlying groundwater systems forming part of the Murray-Darling system inflows, an independent study must be undertaken into the impacts of such mining on those systems.”

According to Mr Windsor, the makeup of the Senate should see the amendment passed with the support of the Nationals and Liberals who supported his amendment in the House of Representatives and also hopefully the South Australian Independent Senator Nick Xenophon and Family First Senator Steve Fielding.

“The Senate has the opportunity to amend the Water Amendment Bill 2008 to cover the needs of the people of the Liverpool Plains and future mining impacts on groundwater systems.

My amendment to the Water Bill 2008 simply stated that an independent study must be undertaken into the impacts of long wall mining on groundwater systems before mining licences can be issued.

Whilst the Government declined to support the need for greater scientific knowledge of the Murray Darling Basin groundwater systems and the connectivity issues with surface water, I congratulate the Greens for taking up the challenge for those who live within the Basin.

I look forward to the Legislation being amended and the study undertaken to the benefit of all,” Mr Windsor said.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868