

for mines by the EPA have no loopholes so that groundwater sources are protected by law.

Strategic Priority 2. Build community and industry resilience through sustainable groundwater use.

I object to the increased use of ground water for mining or gas production. Santos at Narrabri has been fined sums as small as \$1, 500 for contamination of water. This is no impediment to wealthy companies such as Santos.

Whitehaven mines in the Northwest of NSW has been fined a multitude of times for breaking the law and these fines have not ensured that further illegal activities will not continue . Whitehaven has contaminated the Namoi River and a small quantity this water would eventually seep underground.

Whitehaven mines in the Narrabri area in north west NSW has been given permission to bury tyres in the ground rather than take them to a recycling plant. This is giving a miner the right to pollute underground.

I object to the release of new groundwater licences under Controlled Allocation Orders for new mining and gas projects.

I object to encouraging greater reliance on ground water for town water supply as both ground water and surface water will decrease in the increasing arid conditions which will be caused by Climate Change. I live in Tamworth where the aquifers are very close to the surface and can only be replenished by rain, which will be increasingly unreliable in the long term.

Some people in NSW rely entirely on ground water for drinking, for stock and for growing crops.

As groundwater recharge will decrease by 15% by 2060 now is the time to encourage

1. Regenerative agriculture
2. Recycled purified water for cities, towns and villages
- 3 More efficient use of grey water for sporting fields and gargens
- 4 Water wise gardens

5 Effective collection and use of storm water

6. Manufacturing and Processing Industries and Businesses Houses to be water efficient by water recycling and the collection of storm water .

I support Strategic Priority 3 : Improve groundwater management decisions with better information

I support public expenditure in increasing knowledge of groundwater for the protection of aquifer integrity and Ground Dependent Ecosystems.

There must be a transparent accounting for the cumulative impacts of mining and gas production on NSW ground water sources, this must include the impacts of the “experimental “ gas wells which are already in operation at the Santos Narrabri Gas Project in the Pilliga.

