



CLARENCE CATCHMENT ALLIANCE – STAKEHOLDER STATEMENTS

THE PEACH FARM – AGRI-TOURISM



5799 Pacific Highway, Mororro NSW 2469 www.thepeachfarm.com.au

My family and I are owners of The Peach Farm situated in the beautiful Clarence Valley. We grow peaches, nectarines and other food crops. We are an agri-tourism business with an emphasis on regenerative farming and education. We employ up to 25 locals throughout the year, offer a 'pick-your-own' experience, are 100% off grid, recycle 95% of our onsite waste ethically and buy local and fresh produce. Water is the primary foundation of not only our business initiative but the welfare of our family and the farmers surrounding us! Mining is not an option; it would be devastating to the wellbeing and future of our diverse economy and ecosystem. We strongly oppose any mining in our valley! Keep the Clarence Valley the "Super Food Bowl" of NSW and a major contributor to the agri-food economy. Sincerely Raymond and Edwina Cameron, The Peach Farm

DEBRAH NOVAK - CHAIRPERSON CLARENCE VALLEY FOOD INC

M: 0402 404 606 www.clarencevalleyfood.com e: clarencevalleyfood@gmail.com FB INSTA #clarencevalleyfood

The Clarence Valley in Northern NSW is the eastern gateway to Australia's food bowl and the southern gateway to the Northern Rivers. The agri-food economy generates over \$746 million dollars in GRP while mining sees only \$7 million. 3,987 people are employed in the agri-food economy while 37 are employed in mining. There are 1018 agri-food business and only 15 mining businesses. The Clarence Valley heritage industries of timber, dairy, seafood, cattle and sugar cane have been in production for over 175 years. There are 230 registered fishermen making the Clarence River the largest combined fishing fleet in NSW. 2257 registered farms contribute over \$4 million in rates to Council. 561 farmers call the Clarence Valley home. Mining is not an option nor is it a collaborative partner because of its potential to poison and pollute the waterways needed for the agri-food economy.

MICHAEL LAURIE – BUNDJALUNG, GUMBAYNGGIRR, YAEGL REPRESENTATIVE



As a proud Aboriginal Man with strong connections to the Gumbaynggirr, Yaegl and Bundjalung lands, I see the land as our mother and my ancestors have looked after her for thousands of generations. Birrinba (Clarence River) is very significant to Aboriginal people in the Clarence Valley and surrounding areas. We have worked with the river to provide fresh drinking water, food sources, places of ceremony, birthing places and songlines. Mining will destroy Birrinba and our lives are impacted forever. It will have a negative effect on our social and emotional wellbeing as well as our cultural links to The Clarence River.

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION

The Surfrider Foundation Australia stands behind the Clarence Catchment Alliance and the work they are doing to preserve the natural beauty and flow of the Clarence River. The idea of industrialising the river and its catchment by allowing mining in its headwaters not only risks the natural state of the river itself, but also the livelihoods and lifestyles of locals down river. Mining run-off and pollution upriver will inevitably find its way down to the coast at Yamba, an area the surfer culture – and the Surfrider Foundation – see as sacred ground.



YAMBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



This letter outlines the Yamba Chamber of Commerce strong objection to the commencement of open cut mineral mining in the Clarence River catchment areas. The potential for contamination and degradation of the waterways of the Clarence Valley is a risk that simply can not be taken. Yamba's economic future depends on healthy waterways and a vibrant ocean. Tourism is the dominant sector in Yamba. The wider Northern Rivers region is home to around 300,000 people with a GRP of \$13.305 billion (2.3% of the state), damage to the river will impact a range of sectors and have ramifications state-wide. Rivers are extremely important to the biodiversity of coastal regions, open cut mining along riverbeds could have a catastrophic effect on this biodiversity which would in turn have a devastating effect on the wider environment. It is the vehement view of the Yamba Chamber of commerce that this mining operation should not be permitted to go ahead. The long-term negative effect on the tourism economy of the Clarence valley as well as environmental damage that is risked by these operations can not in good conscience be allowed.

Regards, James Allan, President Yamba Chamber of Commerce

PETER ELLEM - INDEPENDENT CLARENCE VALLEY COUNCILLOR

I devised the 'Not a Drop' campaign which has helped thwart repeated attempts to dam and divert the mighty Clarence River inland and supported Northern Rivers defenders who saw off



Coal Seam Gas miners from the region. The prospect of other 'new' mining in our river catchment threatens the livelihoods of local communities who rely heavily on farming, fishing and recreational tourism. It is not welcome here either.

Peter Ellem, Independent Clarence Valley Councillor Clarence Valley Council Locked Bag 23, Grafton NSW 2460
www.clarence.nsw.gov.au



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YAMBA KAYAK – ECO TOURISM



My name is Phil Moore. I have lived in Yamba, at the mouth of the Clarence River, for 26 years now. For the past five years I have been running Yamba Kayak. My business caters for tourists and local alike, getting people with little to no experience out kayaking on the mighty Clarence River. At Yamba Kayak we are against mining in the Clarence Valley as whatever happens up the top of the river ends up at the bottom of the river, where we run our business. If the Clarence River were to become polluted from mining upstream my business would struggle. It would also negatively affect my family and my lifestyle. Clean water is essential to this area and my business. The clean water brings tourists to Yamba and the marine life is abundant which makes the kayaking experience a rewarding and enjoyable one. If mining were to go ahead on or near the Clarence River and it became contaminated it would destroy our business as well as hundreds of other tourism related businesses in Yamba and along the river. I support our community request for a moratorium on mining to protect our river, environment & tourism industry.

DR GREG. P. CLANCY - ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANT AND CLARENCE VALLEY COUNCILLOR

B.Sc. (Zoology/Earth Sciences), M.Sc. (Zoology/Ecology), PhD (Zoology/Ecology), M.R.Z.S.

As an ecologist, a long-term local resident and a Clarence Valley Council Councillor I have grave concerns for the health of the Clarence River and its catchment. The Clarence River is located in one of the most biodiverse parts of Australia, the Macleay-McPherson overlap, where floras and faunas of the southern Bassian bioregion overlap with those of the northern Torresian Region. The River, its riparian vegetation and the various ecosystems of the area are home to thousands of flora and fauna species many of which are threatened. The Eastern Cod, the Platypus, two freshwater turtle species, Eastern Water Dragons, Water Skinks and various other vertebrate and invertebrate species inhabit the waterways of the Catchment. The surrounding forests and wetlands provide essential habitat for the Powerful Owl, Black-necked Stork, Brolga, Sooty Owl, Masked Owl, Koala, Yellow-bellied Glider, Squirrel Glider and the list of threatened species goes on. All of this is threatened by the proposed mineral mines dotted along the high country of the Clarence within close proximity to the River system. These mines must not get approval. To approve them would be to commit further species to becoming threatened and some of the threatened species to becoming locally extinct. No Mines Clarence Catchment. Without healthy waterways our environment suffers. So do all the animals, the economy, our children and ourselves. Thriving oceans and rivers sustains my family's way of life, this is our connection to the country and each other. Placing a mine at the headwaters of the Clarence is a risk not worth taking. This project does not benefit the community or the traditional custodians of the country. It does not help the wildlife, nor does it boost the economy. The coastlines of Yaegl Country are pristine, let keep them that way.

BONNY DOULTON - CCA YOUTH INDIGENOUS AMBASSADOR

I am writing regarding the potential plans to mine in the Clarence Catchment. I am an indigenous youth ambassador for the No Mines Clarence Valley campaign and have grown up in the Northern Rivers. I have a strong passion for conservation and environmentalism, and because of this I like to educate myself and advocate for environmental movements. The places threatened by potential mining hold a special place in my heart. Since I was a child the river and ocean has always been a part of my life whether it would be surfing with my pop, going swimming after school, or going camping up the river on weekends. It makes me terrified to think of the outcome these mining projects could have, not only on the environment, but on the livelihood for people. My hope is for these mining proposals to be turned down and for the protection of the Clarence Catchment to continue.

NIKKI LEVI – MACADAMIA FARMER AND SCHOOL TEACHER

I am a mother and a teacher of children. My family farms macadamias. We are also beekeepers of native bees. We do our best to work in harmony with this amazing environment which gives so much to all of us. I believe in taking a balanced approach to supporting a healthy local economy whilst also ensuring a healthy environment. The Clarence is known for its beautiful ecotourism opportunities and its productive farming practices. As farmers, we are constantly learning about responsible and sustainable practices and adjusting to ensure waterways, soil and ecosystems are not contaminated by our activities. As a teacher I will be working on the NAIDOC concept of Heal Country with my classes. We will talk about mining; We will talk about damage; We will talk about healing country. Without a healthy environment we have nothing. Whilst I understand that some mining may be important for some purposes this cannot be at the expense of everything else! Water is life! And we have failed to protect it in so many parts of the world including in Australia. As we know, mines have been notorious for polluting waterways and disrupting ecosystems around the world. Deep consideration of this issue is needed.

I support a moratorium on mining in the Clarence Valley whilst such consideration takes place

DOUG JENKINS – MACLEAN OUTDOORS

The Clarence River being the largest river on the Eastern seaboard of Australia, provides an unparalleled area for kayaking, camping, fishing and other recreational activities. It also maintains a prosperous agricultural industry. The pristine waters of this magnificent river underpin the rich biodiversity of the local environment. This is what attracts visitors and maintains the rich agricultural land. We cannot risk the financial and environmental risks posed by commercial copper mining on the Clarence causing pollution.





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WILLIAM BROCKIE – PROFESSIONAL FISHERMAN

I am writing to submit my views opposing the proposed mining in the Clarence River catchment.

I, William Mason Brockie, first moved to the Clarence in early 1991. I started working in the local commercial fishing industry in 1994 and currently I am working for local commercial prawn fishing company out of the Clarence River. I hope you are all aware of the vital importance of this river (and all river systems) for the lifecycle of our prawns and many fish species that people enjoy catching and eating. Juvenile Clarence River king and school prawns utilise the Clarence River ecosystem in the post-larval and juvenile stages of their life cycle. They rely on the estuarine habitats, particularly the saltmarsh, mangroves and seagrass, to survive, feed and grow, before heading out to the open ocean waters as adolescent prawns. We need these important habitats in the Clarence River, to support our healthy prawns and fish populations – without these, the prawn and fishing industries would not exist.



No matter where you go in the world, people know of Yamba, the beautiful Clarence River and its famous seafood – especially the Clarence River king prawn.

If mining is allowed in the Clarence Valley, the negative impacts will not only affect the ecosystem of the Clarence River but also the industries that rely on a healthy river system. Knowing what has happened to pristine areas, such as the Ok Tedi and Fly Rivers in Papua New Guinea, from the environmental disasters caused by the Ok Tedi mining operations in that area, is cause for great concern. This local people living in these catchments. This was one of the world's worst environmental disasters, caused by humans. We would not want to risk the same for our Clarence River system.

If any mining operation is allowed in the Clarence River catchment I have grave concerns over the long-term health of the river, its creatures and the industries that utilise this ecosystem.

I ask that you:

- Support and respond to our community and Clarence Valley Council call for a moratorium on future mineral mining – both exploratory and active mining - in the Clarence Catchment, and surrounding Local Government Areas, and revoke existing exploratory licences, in recognition of the Clarence Valley's importance for threatened species and ecological communities, such as the Eastern Freshwater Cod and Koala.
- Join our calls to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to amend Schedule 1 of the NSW State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 to add the following as prohibited development: mineral mining and mineral exploration in the Clarence Catchment and surrounding Local Government Areas
- Seek to amend the NSW Mining Act 1992 to prevent mining and mineral exploration occurring in all environmentally sensitive areas and drinking water catchments across the Clarence Catchment and surrounding Local Government Areas.

Kind regards, William Brockie

REVIVE THE NORTHERN RIVERS – ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

www.revivethenorthernrivers.com

In May 2021 we took a trip to Clarence Gorge to paddle the river and better assess the size of the mine site and its proximity to the river. Seeing the proposed mine site in person, it was immediately clear how quickly the by-products of this open cut mine would flow into the waters of the Clarence and beyond. We strongly suggest an alternative site location. This mine would forever change the landscape of those ranges, as well as the river health, agricultural viability and tourism prospects downstream. We have seen otherwise clean rivers turn orange after open cut mines have been opened in their foothills. It is not just the unnatural colour that perturbs us, it is the mineral runoff and its detrimental impact on our riparian and marine life (and the surrounding human systems) that concerns us... Let's not let the Clarence run orange.



SURF CAMP DOWNUNDER - TOURISM



My name is Shayne Sutherland, and I am a local resident, community member, business owner and wave enthusiast. I support a call for a moratorium on mineral mining in the Clarence Catchment. In 2016 I started Surf Camp Downunder Yamba. We offer surfing lessons to locals and tourists, a surf school for local high school students with special needs, Indigenous days, groom squads and holiday camps among many other programs and initiatives. I am in the water every day, it is an integral part of my leisure, health, wellbeing and livelihood. Where I surf mainly and conduct my business is near the mouth of the mighty Clarence River, so it is essential that the water systems upstream remain clean and free from toxic runoff of mining. Having clean water and a healthy environment is essential to continue to attract tourism to this area and ensure the continuing wellbeing of our community. I say no to mining in the Clarence Valley and yes to a clean and healthy river system and ocean.

NEVILLE WATSON - BUILDER

I am a self-funded retiree. My future income is held in the value of properties I own in the Clarence Valley. If mining were to go ahead - and if instead of a beautiful river our Valley had a toxic drain - real estate would be yet another of the industries to be devastated along with fishing, farming and tourism. Our community and our Council request a moratorium on mining. Neville Watson, Builder, Clarence Valley





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UNCLE HERBERT DUROUX - BUNDJALUNG AND GUMBAYNGGIRR ELDER



My name is Uncle Herbert Duroux and I am a proud Bundjalung and Gumbaynggirr Elder.

I was raised on the Mann River around Cangai and Jackadgery. My Mother was a Gumbaynggirr woman and my Father a Bundjalung man, so my country covers a lot of area. We camp on the river; we need the water to boil our billies and cook with. It's an amazing place for my children and grand kids to go and they love the place. There is an abundance of fruit trees including wild berries and bush lemons which are very important to my people. There is a lot of history and cultural places that are passed down generation to generation. If mining were to go ahead it would destroy the land and poison the water. We would lose our turtles, our fish and fruit trees. I'm not sure if we would still want to eat the fish or fruit with poison from mining in the area. My Great-grandchildren are going to miss out. Mining in this area is destroying more than the land and water when they do it, they are destroying our history and the culture of our family. I just want it left the way it is.

ANDREW WAKEFIELD - RECREATIONAL FISHERMAN

My name is Andrew Wakefield and I have lived in the Clarence Valley for over 25 years. I like recreational fishing and surfing and enjoying our beautiful Clarence River. I love fishing all over the Clarence Catchment chasing Bass and other freshwater fish. Fishing helps me to de-stress out in nature so I am able to relax and enjoy life, without a healthy river I would be lost. The Clarence Valley is a very high rainfall area and if the proposed mineral mining were to go ahead it is not a matter of if but when the tailings dam will fail or overflow. This would lead to devastating contamination of the Clarence River system and be damaging to the ecology of the river and its surrounds. The endangered Eastern Freshwater Cod is already under increased pressure from the recent catastrophic bushfires experienced in this area so it would be greatly impacted if not destroyed if the Clarence River were to become contaminated from mineral mining. I support our community request for a moratorium on mining to protect our river, environment and lifestyle. We need to look after our mighty Clarence River to save our recreation and protect our lifestyle.

DAVID COPPERTHWAITE – TOUR OPERATOR

I am the owner of Wild River Tours and operate in and around the Northern Rivers of NSW.

I offer a range of guided fishing, canoe and kayak adventures and rely on the healthy river systems to operate my business. We introduce people to the amazing scenery and waterways of this area through our tours and the Annual Clarence Wild River Bass Classic. The Clarence River plays a major role in my business, and it is vital that the health of this river is protected for all that use and rely on it to continue to do so. The Clarence River and tributaries is also home to the Endangered Freshwater Cod whose habitat protection is essential for its survival. I strongly oppose mining in or near the Clarence Catchment. <https://wildrivertours.com.au/> David Copperthwaite



UNCLE RON HERON - YAEGL ELDER



My name is Uncle Ron Heron, I am a proud Yaegl Elder and I think it is a disgrace what they are planning to do up the Clarence River with mining. The turtles and eel tailed catfish are an important food source for the people and if mining were to go ahead these species would be greatly impacted, if not destroyed. There is a program called "River of Learning" that has been running at Maclean High School for over 10 years now. It is a collaboration between me, and fellow Elders, Macquarie University, NISEP and Maclean High School. With the mighty Clarence River as the basis of this program, it instils a respect for the local environment and Indigenous culture and a passion for science. The health of the Clarence River is integral to the continued success of this immersive program and to allow the cultural knowledge to be handed down to future generations. What happens upstream will inevitably affect the health of the river downstream and that is why I support a moratorium on mining in the Clarence Catchment. I do not think miners should be given the opportunity or money to help them ruin the river. If we look after Country, it will look after us.

ELIZABETH PARKER - LAWRENCE SANCTUARY

The Lawrence Sanctuary is a wetland of national significance and is located in the floodplain of the Clarence River, as is the nearby Everlasting Swamp National Park. My partner and I acquired the Sanctuary to preserve the breeding grounds for many species of migrating and local birds who depend on these wetlands. Much work and expense has gone in to planning for their future. If mining were to go ahead, just one breach of a tailing dam would be fatal for the Clarence River's breeding grounds as tailing dam failure is most likely to happen in one of the regular flood events which flush the wetlands. We support a call for a moratorium on mineral mining. Elizabeth Parker, Lawrence Sanctuary



LOWER CLARENCE MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE

We, the members and families of Lower Clarence Multicultural Committee (LCMC) wish to acknowledge our support of Clarence Catchment Alliance. We come from various Islands and Countries which sadly bared witness to the devastation mining creates, not only to our environment but to our cultural and social practices of fishing, farming, gardening and to the strong connection we have with Mother Earth and her sacredness to us. We strongly urge you to protect our magnificent Clarence River, her many tributaries and the incredible way of life her generous waters afford us.

Yours sincerely Bobby McCaughey On behalf of Lower Clarence Multicultural Committee



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DANIEL ROSS - ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATE

As a community member and resident of the Clarence Valley for over thirty years I am writing letter this from a place of deep connection and love for this area. The resource of water (clean water) is of the highest priority to all that live here in the Clarence Valley and throughout Australia. As leaders and decision makers I feel that it is your responsibility to ensure that we have clean, safe drinking water now and for generations to come. Any projects or industry that threaten this and the health of our water should be banned, NOT ENCOURAGED. At the moment in the Clarence Valley these projects are being encouraged with government grants and the Corazon Mining project at Mt Gilmore is a clear example. Mining near a river or precious water source is absurd and the people of the Clarence Valley strongly oppose mining in the Clarence Catchment and with the support of the Clarence Valley Council we are asking you to do the same. Please listen to what the community is asking for. Please make these important decisions from a place of respect not greed. RESPECT for our land and water. RESPECT to the ones that have cared for this land and water for thousands of years. RESPECT to the young ones that will feel the biggest impact. Respectfully, Daniel Ross, Wooloweyah resident, Environmental advocate, Coach and mentor of young athletes, Expecting Father

GARRY JAMES ANDERSON - FOURTH GENERATION CLARENCE RIVER COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN

I, Garry James Anderson, being fourth generation clarence river commercial fisherman with both my sons, Travis and Trent now being fifth generation, are current Clarence River commercial fishermen. I would like to submit my views as to mining in the catchment of our mighty river the Clarence. The Clarence produces some of the best seafood in Australia and possibly the world. The Clarence River seafood is the only inland river on the East Coast that sells into over 60 Woolworth stores and over 100 fish monger retail stores. The Clarence produces approximately over 600 tonnes annually from the river and the same amount around Yamba and Iluka ocean waters, so we are talking approximately 1.3 million kilo fresh seafood fishery every year. This fishery supports approximately over 140 fishing businesses being local families. The Clarence River's health is under pressure year in year out, from excessive drainage of our wetlands, Red Spot disease, and the arsenic tailing dam at Timbarra that has overflowed also into the Clarence Catchment. Water quality is crucial in maintaining the quantity and quality of some of the world's best seafood that is produced from the Clarence River. I have six grandsons growing up on the Clarence and would like to think the sixth generations of Anderson fishermen will continue to fish the mighty Clarence River. This can only happen if water quality is maintained.

BRETT DUROUX - GUMBAYGGIRR, BUNDJALUNG, YAEGL REPRESENTATIVE



Giinagay My name is Brett Durox. I'm a 48-year-old proud Gumbayggirr, Bundjalung, and Yaegl man. I was raised in the Clarence Valley, and I have a strong connection to the land and culture of the area and people. I have always worked in all aspects of my life, protecting the land and culture. I worked for my local Aboriginal Lands Council since I was young as a Cultural Heritage Sites Officer with my dad, and now run the family's Aboriginal Corporation. As the chairperson now I have worked with all Government agencies in the past with great results for the Aboriginal communities of the Clarence Valley. I love teaching the ways of our culture and stories, food and, spiritual ways for all to understand. Before you make big decisions based on data and statistics, come and actually take a walk through the land. I will show you why it is important to us. We could have a ball to share the old knowledge and, respect for people and land that has made me into the man I am today without the teachings of my elders. The people who want to mine this land don't think of our future, but we care. Keep Australia safe from those who will hurt our home. I support a moratorium on mining in the Clarence Valley.

HAYLEY TALBOT - ADVENTURER AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATE

In 2017 I kayaked solo from the source of the Clarence at Rivertree, high in the Great Dividing Range, to the mouth, where it empties into the sea at Yamba, in northern NSW. The almost 400km journey took me 14 days of rugged paddling and navigating to complete. It was a journey of connection and belonging. It changed my life, and I never changed back. I can attest, that the Clarence River, which is the lifeblood of the Clarence Valley, is not merely a river system of cultural, ecological, social and economic significance, but a true national treasure.



The Clarence Valley community is determined to not have the failed lessons of mining and damming re-learned on our home-river. Mining cannot be done in a vacuum and even in locations a fraction as precarious as the Clarence Catchment, no guarantees can be made that it can be done safely and without causing harm to the health of local communities, fragile ecosystems, and livelihoods. Having extensively traversed the licence areas, the risks are even greater, with ridgelines that angle immediately down into the river. It is impossible to mine these areas and guarantee there will be no collateral damage. The black summer bushfires decimated these sites, and the floods earlier this year would have similarly spilled any tailings dams directly into the river. I support the Clarence Valley Council in its numerous resolutions opposing such plans. I urge you to hear local government. To hear local people. And to decree a moratorium on mining in the Clarence Catchment.

Yours sincerely, Hayley Talbot - Mother. Adventurer Clarence Valley NSW



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ROBBIE HILL - REGENERATIVE FARMER, CAFÉ OWNER, BUSINESSMAN



I am a local regenerative farmer producing pasture raised beef and chickens and also the owner of two local businesses, Latitude 29 Café in Yamba and the newly established Ulmarra Food Co.

We are an expanding Regenerative Family Farm that works on biodynamic and organic principles and having access to clean and healthy water is a vital part of our processes. We currently run approximately 900 laying pasture raised hens and 50 head of cattle. Our goal is to run a holistically managed farm, with a focus on soil health, incorporating multiple species, a high level of biodiversity, producing and supplying local markets with ethical and nutrient dense food that is environmentally, socially and economically resilient. We, rely on the largest coastal river in NSW, the Clarence River for everything that we do. The health of the Clarence River is critical to the region and that is why we support a moratorium on mineral mining in the Clarence Valley. My family and community deserve the right to clean water. Robbie Hill

JUMKO SAKAMOTO - RESIDENT

I am a resident in Yamba and love the natural environment. After working as ski instructors in the Snowy Mountains in NSW, my partner and I moved to the Clarence Valley. I am not pleased with the proposal of exploratory Mining. I believe it could cause pollution in the river and the ocean. We enjoy water sports, eating the local seafood, and viewing the beautiful nature in our life, and to not want to have the risk of these being spoilt. We ask that mining exploration is not approved.

Jumko Sakamoto, Unit6/39 Clarence Street YAMBA NSW 2464

BRAD ROBERTS - FARM MANAGER AT TRUBLU PRAWNS

My name is Brad Roberts, and I am a local Clarence Valley resident and the farm manager at Trublu Prawns on Palmers Island. We produce around 100-150 Tonnes of Black Tiger Prawns each year. Our farm relies mainly on salt water that comes directly from the Clarence River. Clean water is essential to our business as prawns are extremely sensitive animals and without clean water basically our business would be non-existent. If mining were to go ahead and the water in the Clarence River became even slightly toxic it could wipe out our whole industry. Another concern if the water were to become contaminated from mining is the risk that these toxins could be found in our product. I support a call for a moratorium on mineral mining in the Clarence Catchment to prevent this from becoming a possibility. The economic impact if the Clarence River were to become contaminated would be severe for our business. We employ close to 25 casual staff and 6 permanent staff so our local region and families would also be impacted. We deserve the right to clean water so we can live healthy, happy lives and farm for many years to come.



SURFERS FOR CLIMATE



Without healthy waterways our environment suffers. So do all the animals, the economy, our children and ourselves. Thriving oceans and rivers sustains my family's way of life, this is our connection to the country and each other. Placing a mine at the headwaters of the Clarence is a risk not worth taking. This project does not benefit the community or the traditional custodians of the country. It does not help the wildlife, nor does it boost the economy. The coastlines of Yaegl Country are pristine, let keep them that way. Belinda Baggs, Co-Founder and Director

CLARENCE VALLEY CONSERVATION COALITION

The Clarence Valley Conservation Coalition (CVCC) is a community group based in the Clarence Valley. Formed in 1988, the CVCC has been involved with environmental issues – both locally and beyond – since that time. It has had a long-term interest in water and its management and the maintenance of river health in our local area and further afield, and mining and its impact on the natural environment and local communities. Mining in the Clarence catchment threatens the ecological health of the Clarence River and the many industries which rely on the river system's continued health (including agriculture, fishing and tourism) as well as the security of the drinking water for Clarence Valley urban areas and Coffs Harbour. The Clarence River is of vital spiritual significance to our First Nations people. It is also highly valued by the general Clarence community and is an important part of the community's lifestyle. The strength of community support for the Clarence River system has been shown by the Clarence Valley Council's call for a moratorium on mining in the catchment as well as by the community response to the Clarence Catchment Alliance's petition to the NSW Parliament. Leonie Blain Hon Secretary



DAVE SCHWARZ – RESIDENT

ANY toxic mining spill into the Clarence River could destroy our pristine river and our tourist, agriculture and fishing industries. Dave Schwarz, 35 Melaleuca Drive, Yamba NSW 2464



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TROY CASSAR-DALEY – AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY MUSICIAN AND GUMBAYNGGIRR / BUNDJALUNG REPRESENTATIVE



No matter if you are black or white, we have a responsibility when it comes to our land now and in particular our rivers. We fish in them, swim and camp at places that have been inhabited for thousands of generations and we need to pull together to protect them. Personally, as a proud Gumbaynggirr/ Bundjalung man who grew up in the Clarence valley it's time to put country over greed so future generations can experience what we have in our time on this earth. We are now the keepers of all that's left behind, our stories and family history are all tied up in our rivers. Please help to keep them healthy, mine free and not just a distant memory of something that was once great. We owe this to the next generation. Regards Troy Cassar-Daley, Australian Country Musician, proud Grafton man and Clarence Valley ambassador.

CLARENCE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

NSW Member for the seat of Lismore, Janelle Saffin, recently tabled an eleven thousand plus signature petition to the NSW House of Reps on behalf of the Clarence Catchment Alliance (CCA), asking that an immediate embargo be placed on all mining in the Clarence Valley. The Clarence Environment Centre Inc, a volunteer organisation that has maintained a shopfront presence in Grafton for the past 32 years, fully supports the petition, and adds its call for halt to mining exploration in the Clarence River Catchment. At the same time, we urge that consideration be given to introducing similar embargos within all major urban drinking water supply catchments across NSW. The Clarence River is the largest river system on Australia's eastern seaboard, and the lifeblood of the entire valley, providing an environment that supports one of, if not the largest commercial fisheries on Australia's east coast. Our agricultural and horticultural sectors are likewise dependent on the river's bounty which includes sugar, macadamia nuts, and a wide range of horticultural products including blueberries. Tourists visit the region from all over the world, lured by the pristine nature of our wild rivers for white-water rafting and recreational fishing. Our famous World Heritage Gondwanan rainforests, sparkling sand and surfing beaches, all essential to this major contributor to the local economy, could all be placed at risk if a worst-case scenario from a mining accident were to occur. For the three first nations peoples that historically have shared the valley, the river is central to their 'dreaming', and folk lore, and should be preserved for posterity. The region is also recognised world-wide as one of the globe's great biodiversity hotspots, with the Clarence Valley lying at the very centre of the "MacPherson – Macleay Overlap". This is a region blessed with a climate that allows species from the subtropics to flourish alongside species from more temperate regions, a phenomenon that exists, not only on land, but also in the marine environment where corals and seagrasses are found coexisting in the warm currents that flow past our shores. While mining is essential to Australia's ongoing prosperity, we believe that any attempt to undertake it safely in the rugged mountainous Clarence Valley hinterland, with its high annual rainfall, would be fraught with danger, and any mining accident which, unfortunately, happens all too frequently, could prove to be disastrous to the valley. Therefore, when the petition is debated in August, we ask that you consider speaking in support of the CCA motion. Yours sincerely John Edwards Honorary Secretary



FRANCES BELLE PARKER - YAEGL WOMAN AND ARTIST & REV AUNTY LENORE PARKER - RESPECTED YAEGL ELDER



Biirrinba (Clarence River in Yaygirr) is the life-giving vein for the Yaegl, Bundjalung and Gumbayngirr people in the Clarence Valley. We need to keep our river healthy. When the river is sick, we become unwell. If mining is to occur our traditional ways of living off the river will be destroyed. It's not just Aboriginal communities which have a connection to the river, it's all the local industries and people who also rely on this river to be at its healthiest. The effects of mining within close vicinity to our river would be catastrophic and destroy much more than the river itself. If the river dies, our spirit will die. What will happen to the stories of our people that are contained within the banks of this river? The spiritual connection we have as Yaegl people to Biirrinba serves as a huge responsibility as the care takers of this life-giving vein. We need to look after our river, we need to protect our river, we need to listen to our river. It is our right to protect our river! Biirrinba Ngarrangiya (Clarence River Deep Listening) Frances Belle Parker - Yaegl woman and artist & Rev Aunty Lenore Parker - Respected Yaegl Elder

LIONS CLUB OF CLARENCE – ENVIRONMENTAL

On behalf of The Lions Club of Clarence – Environmental, I extend my support for a moratorium on future mining and mining exploration in the Clarence Valley Catchment. We are the first Lions Club to highlight the importance of biodiversity in the Clarence Valley, and work towards protecting the threatened flora and fauna species. Our projects include Coastal Emus, Koala tree corridors, nesting boxes in schools, supporting the eradicating of feral pests and revegetating local parks to promote the conservation of natural habitat and enhance the biodiversity of the Clarence Valley. Members of our club are concerned that mining will not only have detrimental environmental effects, but will also affect the biodiversity of our endangered flora and fauna like our threatened coastal emus, koalas and the Eastern Freshwater Cod, as well as putting our drinking water for the Clarence and Coffs Harbor areas at risk. Tim Watson, President

