Re: Thirlmere Lakes Inquiry

Dip Teach. Grad Dip EPA., M Art Ed

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THIRLMERE LAKES CRISIS

Indisputable scientific evidence has demonstrated that coal mining has hydrologic and subsidence environmental impacts.

In view of the scientific findings in the enclosed environmental reports, documents and papers (and from which readers may gain insights and knowledge and inspiration for change), it is imperative that there be-

A) **Immediate cessation of major resource extraction** by the coal extraction company responsible for the loss of water in Thirlmere Lakes i.e., the destruction of Thirlmere Lakes, in order to contain and prevent further damage. This will include closure of the coal company’s local industry.

B) **Legislated permanent protection** for Thirlmere Lakes ecological survival as a bioregion because water and life are synonymous. The Lakes and its natural surrounds must be protected for the common good both for wildlife and humankind within the context of climate change.

C) **Federal, State and Local Policies** banning major resource exploration and extraction and exploitation (to the centre of the Earth), in or near National Parks
Nature Reserves
sites of significant environmental value
heritage sites e.g. archaeological excavations and historic homes
cultural sites e.g. traditional indigenous sacred sites
agricultural land
rural and residential properties
streams, lakes, rivers, creeks, wetlands, dams, aquifers and water catchments i.e., naturally occurring and created bodies of fresh and salt water
D) Development of an environmental recovery and water management plan whereby a State government appointed ‘Rescue’ body, compensated by the coal extraction company/industry which must demonstrate accountability and fiduciary responsibility for the destruction of Thirlmere Lakes will-

1. Repair and restore below ground sediments or earth layers to their previous state of ecological health followed by regular evaluation and assessment.

2. Repair and restore aquifers to their previous state of ecological health followed by regular evaluation and assessment.

3. Restore the lake beds and surrounding land including vegetation types and numbers and wildlife species and numbers to their previous state of ecological health followed by regular evaluation and assessment reports.

4. Restore the lake water levels to their previous state of ecological health followed by regular evaluation and assessment reports.