

6Senator Doug Cameron visited the area on 8th April and made a speech to the Senate on 13th May in which he outlined his position on the issue. He said ‘The lure of the money involved in mining enterprises simply does not justify the destruction of some of Australia’s most arable land.’ Senator Cameron offered his assistance to the community.

6The Senate committee inquiring into Australian Food Production, chaired by Senator Bill Heffernan, met in Gunnedah on May 19th. The senators had a brief visit to the blockade and tour of the Carroona area before carrying on to Gunnedah. Submissions were made by several members of the CCAG as well as The Hon Robert Hunter QC, Mrs Wendy Bowman and Mr Robert Banks.

6Santos held a series of public meetings the week of May 18th to 22nd. We know it is a condition of the exploration licence that these meetings must be held and the box ticked. The lack of real and credible information, and even some misinformation, that is given at these events continues to cause frustration and anger in the community.

6The mining warden handed down his decision on the access agreements for several landholders on Thursday 21st May. Not surprisingly, he found in favour of Coal Mines Australia on all the points that were raised. These points included breaches of the access agreements and failure to comply with proper drilling procedures to protect the environment.

6The terms of reference for the water study have been agreed and passed on to Minister Macdonald for approval.

6The CCAG continues to look for better ways to communicate with the community. At the moment these include:

- The web site is constantly updated at www.ccag.org.au
- A one page news summary is left at the blockade
- Update emails are sent out with news updates
- Media releases are sent to appropriate outlets

Please provide your suggestions for other ways to improve communication. Thank you for your support.

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