

HD LETTERS

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LETTERS

What real future?

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HOW sad to see the local real estate industry dancing on the graves of **Chinchilla**'s only sustainable industries – tourism and agriculture – at their recent real estate community meeting.

Unsurprisingly, their dancing partners are the mining industries that are killing off the agricultural industries that built **Chinchilla**.

For all the boasts of speakers from CSG companies such as Origin and the banks such as ANZ that support them, the CSG industry is predicted by the State Government to last only 20 years.

The construction phase was the period of greatest employment. Running the gas fields doesn't take many employees at all.

The coal industry, too, is in international decline as our major markets such as **China** and India turn to renewable energy, and the plunging prices for coal reflect this.

So when the miners are gone, we will be left with destroyed agriculture and tourism industries from the sucked-dry Great Artesian Basin and the poisoned left-over water for our drinking supply and farmers. We will be left with destroyed topsoil, and the huge holes in the ground where carcinogens seep into the water they fill with, along with a town full of overpriced houses with no local jobs for the hapless owners to pay them off with.

Working for local fast food outlets servicing the mining trucks along the Warrego Highway won't pay off \$400+/week mortgages, and as the mining boom ends, the truck flow will shrink, too, leaving us with a trashed highway that will continue to cost the public purse multi-**millions** to rebuild.

In the meantime, as our local bores dry up, all the mining boom leeches that spoke so proudly of our bright future completely ignored the death of our local **dairy** industry and the **sold**-up local growers and graziers that can't get the banks to carry them over the normal dry spells of agriculture despite knowing the next good season will repay their investment.

These bankers love big **business**, and their big **business** mates are happy to snap up these productive farm businesses as the banks foreclose on our local farmers. Just because the supermarkets leech off the profits the farmers should be getting instead doesn't mean that farming isn't a profitable growth industry.

If this is our local "brains trust", I guess it just shows how stupid we all are to let them get away with it.

Nationally mining employs only 49,300, and this figure is shrinking. Agriculture directly employs 307,000 and tourism 342,800.

Why are we allowing big **business** to destroy these industries that create a real future for **Chinchilla**?

Elena Garcia,

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