

# The Chronicle

**HD** Stud in big coal battle  
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**LP**

Cattle breeders say CS Energy has moral obligations

David v Goliath

**TD**

VETERAN Darling Downs cattle breeders want to retire with something to show for 27 years of life on the land.

But they say that dream has been ruined by a state government-owned energy giant.

Bill and Lynne Dahlheimer have owned and run the Tangalooma Brahman Stud on the 455-hectare **property** Campbell's Camp, near Brigalow on the western Downs, since 1987.

In 2009, they decided it was time to sell up and retire to a smaller block near **Chinchilla**.

But after five years on the market and despite the efforts of eight **property** agents, Campbell's Camp remains unsold.

Mr Dahlheimer only has to look to the near horizon to a massive smoke stack that rises over the treeline to catch sight of what he believes has ruined his retirement dreams.

In 2005, just 3km from the Dahlheimers' home, the state government-owned CS Energy started construction on the Kogan Creek Power Station and a coal mine that fed the coal-fired generator.

Since it started operating in 2009, a black shadow has literally been cast on the Dahlheimers' lives.

They say their home is constantly covered in black dust, their water has been contaminated and noise from the mine – including explosions – rattles the timber walls of their homestead.

The Dahlheimers claim the power station and coal mine have devalued Campbell's Camp and sent potential buyers rushing away.

"People should be rushing to **buy** our **property** ... but who is?" Mr Dahlheimer asked.

"(CS Energy) has taken away our life savings.

"We could be made to walk off here absolutely penniless."

Mrs Dahlheimer agreed, adding "they've taken our future – we don't have a future now".

Mr and Mrs Dahlheimer believe CS Energy has at least a moral obligation – if not a legal one – to help them sell the **property** for what it was worth before the power station arrived.

The Dahlheimers have suggested several options, including for CS Energy to **purchase** Campbell's Creek or to make up the difference between the **sale** price and the **property's** market value.

But CS Energy claims it has no obligation to assist the Dahlheimers because Campbell's Creek is outside the power station's footprint and buffer zone.

CS Energy CEO Martin Moore said while the **company** "empathised" with the Dahlheimers' situation, there was no **commercial** justification or legal obligation to **purchase** the **property**.

"As a Queensland government-owned corporation, our shareholders are effectively the people of Queensland and it is critical that we make commercially sound decisions in their interests."

Mr Moore said CS Energy had always strived to be a "good corporate citizen".

He said the **company** had monitored dust levels at Campbell's Creek, arranged for the cleaning of the Dahlheimers' home and replaced filters in the couple's drinking water.

"In each case investigated to date, it has been found that CS Energy has met all of its environmental obligations," Mr Moore said.

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