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Coal mine plan sparks fears for farmland

By Melissa Maddison

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- [Map: Clermont 4721](#)

Rural lobby group AgForce says a proposal for a major coal mine in Queensland's Central Highlands poses a significant threat to grazing land.

Indian company Adani is planning the \$10 billion Carmichael coal mine, near Clermont north-west of Rockhampton, which could produce up to 60 million tonnes of tonnes a year through open-cut and underground mining.

The Isaac Mayor has also expressed concerns about the loss of farming land if the mine goes ahead.

AgForce policy director Drew Wagner says it is an issue right across the state.

"We're seeing right now in excess of 80 per cent of the landscape across Queensland has some type of resource tenure over it," he said.

"Now whether that be coal seam gas, whether it be coal or minerals or otherwise, over 80 per cent, which means if all of these projects go together, I don't know where we're going to farm any more."

Mr Wagner says it is disappointing that the impact on agriculture is not taken into consideration.

"The reality is that we constantly get shown how many billions of dollars these projects are worth to the State Government but the fact of the matter still remains that as soon as you stop utilising the landscape for that practice, you cannot return it to anything, thus permanently alienating its ability to go back to agriculture at all," he said.

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