

To the Senate Inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill 2013 [Provisions]

As a Northern Rivers resident, wife and mother of four beautiful children, I was overjoyed when the Federal Government announced the Water Trigger Bill that could come before the Senate. Please bring these new laws before the Senate so they are passed BEFORE the next election. Our food-growing land, precious water resources, air quality and the future health of our next generations depend upon swift action.

The 2km radius should also extend to tight gas areas so that communities such as Casino, NSW are protected.

Landholders should also have the right written in Federal Law to say NO.

Our mining laws are archaic and need to be revised before our precious resources are stripped, sent overseas along with the profits and we Australians are left with a toxic, polluted country.

No energy on earth is worth destroying our food-growing land. Pressure is already being felt upon food production in the USA. Let's be smarter. Renewable energies are so advanced now that the base-load frightening stories spouted by mining companies are proven untruths. Big Solar initiatives like those of Beyond Zero Emissions are the clean way of the future.

Groundwater is so important. Forests rely on the height of water tables to survive. Water tables in Queensland have dropped so dramatically that some farmers can no longer reach bore water to irrigate their crops or livestock. If someone was to walk onto your land and poison your waterhole they would be gaoled. Yet, we are allowing foreign-owned companies to do exactly that and get away with it! This is absurd.

Australian State Governments have a proven poor track record on environmental protection issues. Please step in now to take the Federal initiative to protect our great country before it is too late.

Thank you.

Yours very sincerely,
Louise Somerville