

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill 2013 [Provisions]

I am encouraged that the Federal Government is taking steps to protect the nations water resources from the effects of Coal Seam Gas & Coal Mining Australia has limited water resources & the competing demands of Urban, Rural & Mining will deplete this precious resource if the Government does not act to protect them.

Of the 3 competing sectors for water I submit that CSG & Coal mining are the least deserving. They are fossil fuels that are reaching their use by date. The increasing effects of Climate Change are now upon us. (How many homes have been lost this summer to floods, bush fires, cyclones & tornadoes?) To prop up these dying industries by risking our future water supplies makes little sense from the perspective of National Water Security. Personally my family derives its main income from the Dairy Industry on the Far North Coast of NSW. My wife has worked for the Norco Dairy Co-Op for the last 24 years. Norco employs more than 600 workers in N.E. NSW & S.E. QLD. If the ground water is adversely affected by CSG or Coal mining these jobs will be at risk. (The Lismore community voted 87% NO to CSG mining at last Septembers Local Council elections.)

I call on the Federal Government to make the laws on Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation apply to all projects approved after February 13/2013 so to allow for the reconsideration of approvals for Gloucester CSG mining & Maules Ck. & Boggabri coal mines.

If the Government is intending to protect land holders & Communities from CSG & large Coal mines, the landholder needs to have the right to refuse these activities on their land. Who paid for the title & pays the rates?

The new water protection laws need to apply to Shale Gas, Tight Gas & especially Coal Gasification, a process banned in QLD after major pollution of ground water in the Kingaroy district .

The Federal Government must NOT hand Federal Environmental powers to the States , their Environmental Protection records are very poor. They are not to be trusted, as was illustrated on the Four Corners program that went to air on 1/4/ 2013.

I commend your work

Simon Chance