To whom it may concern,

Although I am only able to comment on what I have seen on a program originally aired on The ABC TV regarding Coal Seam Gas Extraction and the detrimental effects it has on both the lives and livelihoods of the smallholders in Queensland and another program aired on SBS TV that mirrored this practice in areas of North America.

It would appear the landholders in Queensland are being railroaded by a Queensland Government hell bent on doing as much as it can to ruin good arable land by allowing Coal Seam Gas extraction and the insidious practice of Fracking.

The very process where Fracking allows toxic gasses to leach into the aquifers, resulting in those gasses contaminating the water supply of the landholders, which in turn is poisoning both the cattle reliant on the water supply and also contaminating the produce grown by these primary producers by irrigation.

This same industry is ruining enormously large tracks of land in the USA and the ramifications of that process doing likewise here in Australia is unconscionable .

We are all aware of the present drive by The Queensland Government, for untapped underground energy, but at what price, land reduced to unusable desert for decades if not eternity and all for a fistful of dollars. Dollars to fill the pockets of an unscrupulous Government ably assisted by Mining Companies Making Millions out of the misery of the people who are left powerless to do anything to save what they presently toil for and our forefathers and pioneers previously fought and worked so hard for.

We need more than an enquiry into this practice before to is beyond redemption, once the damage has been done it will be impossible to reclaim this land and monetary compensation to the landholders is not the answer, a halt must be called immediately until a better process is found and if that process is not forthcoming then it should be abandoned completely.

People cannot eat Gas nor Money and when the ground water is useless what next do they drink.................?

Brian Cotgrove