

The Bill (The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill 2013 is strongly supported by me, my family and friends and many others in my household and Local community, I and others would like to see it passed quickly through the Senate.

We are more very very pleased that the bilateral approval provisions of the EPBC Act cannot apply to coal and coal seam gas developments that impact on water resources, and that there have been some improvements to the exemptions.

We want to definitely ensure that the exemptions contained in the Bill are minimised, and that key projects, such as the Arrow Coal Seam Gas project in Queensland and Camden in western Sydney, are not exempt from it. Therefore, we would still like to see minor amendments to remove s22 2b) and d).

We recognise that there are other amendments that would substantially improve the Bill, that may be required in the future, such as:

- Amending the Bill to cover all unconventional gas mining, including shale gas and tight gas, and unconventional coal mining

- Strengthening the role of the Independent Expert Scientific Committee

- Defining significant impacts on water resources

- Introducing a set of requirements for the Minister to consider when making decisions on water resource impacts

- Including a requirement for bioregional assessments prior to approval

On a personal note I would like to make this point very clear to Senate and the Federal Government that I am glad that activities of the Former NSW Labor minister Ian Macdonald have been highly investigated regarding how he effectively gave a valuable mining lease worth tens of millions of dollars to a political mate.

"Mateship has developed a place in Australian folklore and culture. In ordinary life, there is nothing wrong with doing a favour for a mate. Indeed it may be a noble act. However, when that favour involves the dealing with valuable public assets by those entrusted with them, it takes on a different complexion. In those circumstances, a favour for a mate or a comrade with a shared political affiliation may involve"

PETER BRAHAM

This kind of Corruption is despicable, infant any kind of Corruption is deplorable.

As a descendent of the first settlers (James Mileham Hassall) Great Great Grandfather, and Great Granddaughter of Gerald Paul Joseph Cajetan Carmel Antony Martin Strickland, 6th Count della Catena, 1st Baron Strickland, GCMG (24 May 1861 – 22 August 1940) Prime Minister of Malta, Governor of the Leeward Islands, Governor of Tasmania, Governor of Western Australia and Governor of New South Wales. I feel strongly I have to express my commitment to being Australian and protecting what is valuable to myself, my family my friends and community. To protect our beautiful natural Heritage, our clean pastures and pristine forests, our vast and clear, natural rivers, streams waterways and lakes; our clean air, for ourselves and generations to come.

The rampant and reckless and abhorrent behaviour of some our members of Government, State and Federal who are meant hold office with "Duty of care" towards the population of Australia and our land, their decisions and careless behaviour in regards to mining and CSG has been extremely distressing. I hope that more will be done by those in office to protect Australia and her people from the awful mining CSG industry, and any other mining that harms indigenous heritage, community and our environment

Tara Blackman