

I refer to the Senate Inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill 2013 [Provisions]

The importance of groundwater to each individual and each local community cannot be underestimated. Water is fundamental to life. We have already 'undermined' the balance and health of our environment by virtue of long-term pollution besides threatening our climate, which poses a serious challenge to human survival and that of a great number of species. We can NOT afford to further destabilise the Australian Artesian Basin.

The impact of the mining of coal and coal seam gas can and has, as so clearly pointed out in last night's FOUR CORNERS documentary, has enormous consequences on our underlying water systems.

I therefore encourage the government to bring these new laws to the Senate, so they can be passed before the election. I would like to emphasise the importance of keeping these new powers in federal hands, because of the poor environmental track record of state governments.

Kind regards
Tess de Quincey