

4 March 2010

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sirs

Inquiry into Native Vegetation Laws, Greenhouse Gas Abatement and Climate Change Measures

Can we be sure that the coal seam gas industry will not cause irreparable damage to the upper aquifers of the Condamine River and associated streams. I believe that some studies have shown that there will be a serious consequence for the upper aquifers. Further investigation needs to be done to definitely show whether there will be any damage before the coal seam gas industry is allowed to expand any further. If these aquifers are depleted, it will come at an enormous cost to irrigators, local governments, our environment, etc.

Because they have preserved stands of native vegetation on their own properties due to their thoughts of environmental and/or social responsibility, some landholders now find themselves at a distinct disadvantage:- they receive no form of compensation for their foresight and they cannot utilize that land to make any monetary gain but they must continue to pay local government rates and charges and continue to maintain that land in a very accountable manner, etc.

Too often in the past we have collectively made environmental mistakes that have caused great damage to our most precious asset – our environment! And how hard has it been to “fix up” those mistakes – sometimes it has been impossible. Can’t we learn from those mistakes and resolve to not do it again. We need to learn from our past mistakes and preserve our environment and our very productive farming land for future generations.

The burden on the environment and the social implications of many decisions for this generation and future generations should register as of utmost importance.

Thank you for receiving my submission.

Yours faithfully

Alan Ellis