

## **Senate Inquiry Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill 2013 Provisions**

I wish the Senate to take into account the fact that WATER is the most essential and precious resource that we have.

Australia does not have abundant water, and much of the reserve that we have is held in underground aquifers that are vulnerable to damage by ill-considered human activity such as mining and coal seam gas drilling.

I ask that the Senate take note of my concern for all the species of life including ourselves that will continue to rely on fresh drinking water into the foreseeable future.

It is simply not worth the risk to our water future to allow the possibility of damage to our limited water resources. Regardless of conditions imposed upon the mining and gas extraction industries, accidents DO happen and the concept of 'adaptive management' is obscene ..... it is mining- and gas company- language that says if something goes wrong we will (try to) fix it.

It's too late once the damage is done and I ask the senate to err on the side of caution in its deliberations over this issue.

Jane Stevenson

4th April 2013