

Submission to the: Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining

30 January 2016

Dear Select Committee,

My submission relates to Unconventional Gas Mining and will at times relate it to similarities that I uncovered in my own industry and furthermore almost systemic through what we call reality by way of acceptance, directed and steered by government policy.

The adequacy of Australia's legislative, regulatory and policy framework for unconventional gas mining including coal seam gas (CSG) and shale gas mining, with reference to:

a. a national approach to the conduct of unconventional gas mining in Australia

Since when has the raping and pillaging of not only our nation's most basic resources (clean air and water) but also its most basic liberties (by definition: the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's behaviour or political views) and rights (by definition: that which is morally correct, just or honourable), of which it's governing body has a duty of care to protect, been acceptable? Seriously is our aim to profit forsaking our prophet, or should we take that another step further and ask exactly which side of the fence we are sitting on. Do we aspire to humility, kindness, abstinence, chastity, patience, liberality and diligence or have we surrendered ourselves to pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath and sloth?

b. the health, social, business, agricultural, environmental, landholder and economic impacts of unconventional gas mining;

HEALTH – How many more damning reports do you need? Are you not aware of historically proven effects and consequences of allowing this practice to proceed? A point of reference to begin with, I suggest, is the simple fact that fracking is now banned in the US state that the practice was birthed and conceived from. If they have already learnt from trial and error, are you consciously committing unconsciousable behaviour on your fellow man?

SOCIAL – There isn't anything more anti-social than poisoning one owns environment and water supply of which society actually requires to exist prior to any interactions. The damage to our nation's aquifer will be irreversible and far reaching in not only proximity but through generations of time. Examples: Hiroshima, Fukushima, Chernobyl, BP's Gulf of Mexico Spill. Does anybody recall a meeting recently held in Paris that committed the world (Earth) to adopting socially acceptable, renewable and sustainable energy alternatives? Not to be omitted from social side effects is the livelihoods of communities and landholders adversely affected such as the late George Bender and the many other ill effected inhabitants (all living things) as a result of ignoring their pleas.

AGRICULTURAL – Agriculture is reliant on four parts: Soil, Sun, Water and Labour. As stated above this practice has been historically proven to directly affect the quality and useability of three of the before mentioned requirements of agriculture while also violating their freedoms and liberties as persons and/or businesses. As this is also my field of expertise in relation to QLD's ready to boom again Ecane industry (evolved from the former Sugarcane industry) I will attach a link that advises of how an

overbearing corporate entity abuses its powers over law-abiding landholders and tax contributing citizens to unhealthily promote an unworthy and unjustifiable purpose. Why they continue to make sugar below or near the cost of production instead of meeting our evolving national energy demands has got me beat, and was one of many contributing factors conspiring me into a depressive state (Sadness should not be confused with silliness or any other mental disorder) which resulted in suicidal ideation and thankfully was able to be corrected so far from there. I'll allow you to make up your own minds upon reading the attached links and now return to task but you will hopefully notice the parallels that I do which has systemically infiltrated this once prosperous and lucky country.

<http://igg.me/at/29PcUIOIARw>

<http://www.pozible.com/project/203398>

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/ecane-energising-eco-entrepreneurs#/story>

<https://www.facebook.com/ecaneecoentrepreneurs>

https://www.change.org/p/all-levels-of-australian-government-mandate-ethanol-now-2?recruiter=62561668&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink

I will also on this note and topic, copy and paste a letter I wrote almost two years ago in relation to this systemic behaviour in regard to the mannerisms of relevance to your current enquiry of Unconventional Gas Mining,

Dr Alex Douglas MP

Thank you for your time last Tuesday night. I am not contacting you to align myself with your political party however at this time a PUP member would have my vote in this region despite previously voting for KAP in the last election. As you may recall I am strongly opposed to the communist/monopoly hold Wilmar is trying to get on our nations sugar/renewable energy assets. This is one of numerous issues we as Queenslanders and Australians face. We are and will forever be the lucky country while opportunity and choice exist.

My intention was to keep this short and simply thank you and PUP for your efforts in representing the people (the sole purpose of any governing body) but I just felt it may come across a little hollow without any supporting information for you to consider. Firstly, Competition is always healthy. Look no further than Mother Nature. As I stated earlier I do not wish to align myself with your party and reserve the right to vote as I please. Competition maintains honesty and integrity for all. An old saying goes, "Keep your friends close and your enemies even closer". Another is, "Two heads are better than one". And, "Many hands make light work". Together through opposition, discussion, arbitration and dispute we as people resolve for the betterment of all mankind. Even God our creator has competition from the devil himself and I probably shouldn't make a religious statement like this but our greed (like Eve's) is slowly moving us further from our "Eden". Take a look around, step back.

Our people only ask for a fair go. To have the shoe put on the other foot, just as Clive has asked parliament to bring their own pensions in line with the rest of us. There isn't much wrong with the standards Australia sets whether it be primary industry, manufacturing or whatever but to then allow imports (product, resources or people) below the standards/regulations we ask of ourselves is

ludicrous. An example is the discussion we had last Tuesday night where sugarcane growers are asking for their governing bodies to help them in retaining their 2/3rd share in the Sugar (including marketing) processed from their sugarcane crop. Historically growers and millers had agreed that 1/3 share of crop revenue (Only sugar in those days) was fair remuneration for the millers efforts in processing the crop. Today sugarcane revenue includes Electricity, Biofuels, Molasses, Fertiliser, K-fibre, Sugar and too many more renewable and sustainable income streams to list here. So are the farmers being greedy in asking to retain only the 2/3rd share of Sugar alone or should they rightfully be awarded a 2/3rd share on everything their crop is processed for? Keeping in mind that growers have agreed to many proposals since that original pricing agreement to reduce milling expenses such as Continuous crushing and extended season lengths at their own expense, directly of lost CCS and tonnages and indirectly by taking away time from families, sporting clubs and the like.

How much longer will the growers allow this erosion of their livelihoods and the supporting communities around them? Do they have a choice? Of course they do and plenty of them, they simply need to see the opportunity being presented to them not unlike the Palmer United Party. The PUP is simply stepping into a hole that previous parties created by forgetting their founding purpose, to represent the people. A millers founding purpose is to process a crop. I am likening an agricultural crop to human beings and in essence we are the same as no government/corporation will ever succeed by misrepresenting/damaging its people/crop. This is why we are the lucky country because we promote and defend freedoms that give us opportunity and choice to deter those that would otherwise have us extinct.

In closing I would like to once again thank you for your time and would appreciate any invitation to further discussions held in my region regarding anything and everything.

Michael Hodder

Mick & Mack Pty Ltd

Coastal Harvesting Company Pty Ltd

ENVIRONMENTAL – Again please refer to previous trial and error or historical data collection where this practice has existed and since been banned. As documented in the above links also in relation to Ecane there are now a number of alternatives to energy that are much less controversial and are already in existence but lack the initiative to see them promoted for not only the betterment of mankind but for the sake of our actual existence.

LANDHOLDER – As exemplified in my current proceedings and dealings with Wilmar there appears to be a blatant one-sided perception of the law, however upon further examination true representation in this case is in actual fact provided by the law of which they are staking their claim. I am unsure of the exact legislation being placed in front of landholders in relation to Unconventional Gas Mining but nor

do I need to be at this point in time as I suspect that is the duty of people such as yourselves that we are now addressing.

ECONOMIC – It's really quite simple. Primary Industry must be a primary priority. All else is built on the fruits that primary industry provides. Unconventional Gas Mining has an adverse effect on agricultural environments that no amount of money and sometimes even time itself cannot fix.

c. government and non-Government services and assistance for those affected;

This section is really unrequired like the practice of Unconventional Gas Mining due to the numerous alternatives available however now that it has been permitted to take place these organisations have a moral duty of care to provide satisfactory compensation and support to those with proven claims. Note: It may be long after the companies have been and gone before some claims even show symptoms so therefore it is necessary insurances be put in place. Example: Asbestos.

d. compensation and insurance arrangements;

A cure while now necessary shouldn't take focus away from prevention measures. If we don't stop this systemic behaviour in its tracks we'll continue to chase our own tail into extinction.

e. compliance and penalty arrangements;

Yes and while you're at it give yourselves (Government, Senate, Policy Makers) an uppercut too. Accountability must fall squarely on the shoulders of those directly responsible for crimes against humanity, and those that pervert our justices to accommodate continued indiscretions of our laws.

f. harmonisation of federal and state/territory government legislation, regulations and policies;

While you'd assume these should align, I believe that two heads are always better than one and wouldn't focus too much on harmonising the processes more so than achieving the best possible outcome but there is two sides to the coin. On the mining approval side there is no disadvantage in patiently and thoroughly examining proposals, if the benefits are honestly there to be made then they'll always be there. On the other hand if its compensation, insurance or any emergency action it should be forthcoming immediately without the need to jump through hoops which was a common theme at the Rural Debt and Drought Taskforce meeting that I recently attended.

g. legislative and regulatory frameworks for unconventional gas mining in comparable overseas jurisdictions;

It's fairly obvious that comparable overseas legislative and regulatory frameworks are not being considered for Unconventional Gas Mining applications. The bigger and systemic picture here is, "Why do we allow invisible men (Corporations/Companies) to rape and pillage our economies and the environments that house them yet persecute ourselves.

h. the unconventional gas industry in Australia as an energy provider;

Are you kidding me? We have Ecane, Solar, Hydro and Wind options on top of various others that if given the same incentives as the fossil fuel industry would be very quickly uptaken. We are the dearest country in the world to live in. By reducing our costs of living through the uptake of cheaper, sustainable and renewable energy and getting our primary producers a return on their investments we start putting money into the pockets of the people who are the real drivers of a successful, healthy and sustainable economy. This is what our manufacturing base was built on after the world wars,

please don't' send us there (war) again. Remember Holden, Remember Austoft, Remember the Dairy industry, Remember the Sugar refineries, Remember the Ports, Remember Australia.

i. the current royalty and taxation arrangements associated with unconventional gas mining;

Yes, I'm glad you brought this up, why am I still paying taxes? Shouldn't their (Corporate) supposed royalties and taxes be enough to affordable run this country? Or are you giving too much away? Selling your nose despite your face, so to speak.

j. any related matter;

We can talk numbers and words, stats and opinions all we like here today. The real question that we required answered here today is, "What is our purpose?"

Is what we are trying to achieve worth the consequences?

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Hodder (Husband, Father, Brother, Son, Tax contributing citizen, Employer and Employee)

Mick & Mack Pty Ltd (Director)

Coastal Harvesting Company Pty Ltd (Director)

Bountiful Burdekin Markets (Co-founder)

Ecane (Visionary/Entrepreneur)