

To whom it may concern,

The proposed new laws require the Environment Minister to take into account the water impacts of coal seam gas and large coal mining when assessing those projects for approval. The Minister will be able to refuse such projects if the water impacts are too great, or impose conditions to protect water resources from coal seam gas and coal mining. This is a much needed change to the present status of coal seam gas practices.

I urge the government to bring these new laws to the Senate, so they can be passed before the next election. Given the wellspring of feeling on this issue in the community, it is sure to be a pivotal deciding factor for many voters.

Groundwater contamination in this area would be apocalyptic. My drinking water comes from springs that would become toxic if coal seam gas goes ahead. Already we have seen containment ponds overflowing when our unpredictable heavy rains descend. A kangaroo died after drinking from these open ponds. Our community has given no social licence for coal seam gas. 97.5% said no at our local elections. We have seen and heard the stories and do not want our foodbowl turned into a toxic wasteland.

It is particularly important that these new powers are in federal hands, as our state governments have a deplorable environmental track record.

Yours sincerely,
Jesse Curmi