

My Submission to the Federal Government

The Federal Government, in the last sitting week of Federal Parliament, has taken first step in protecting Australia's land and water from coal and gas expansion.

Proposed new laws that were passed, require the Federal Environment Minister to take into account the water impacts of coal seam gas and large coal mining when assessing new projects for approval. These proposed laws will enable the Minister 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.

Today's Top News Item (Wednesday 3rd April 2013) was that 75% of NSW voters oppose coal seam gas exploration, which is not only a set back for Premier Barry O'Farrell but also strengthens Australians arguments against coal seam gas exploration and coal mining as agreed by & evidenced in the Nielsen poll with 75% of Coalition voters & 73% of Labor voters.

I am involved with Community activists and advocates who have been working for this change for a long time.

Most importantly, these laws must pass the Senate to take effect now that they have passed the House.

There is strong community support from those like me who are campaigning for this outcome. The large majority of people want these laws to be passed in the Senate before the election and the Government needs to hear and act on this. There is a Senate Inquiry into these new laws happening now and even that these laws are strengthened. I urge the Government ensures these laws are passed and this is backed by strong community support.

I also agree with the Greens that the laws should be stronger; applying to different types of gas, giving landholders the right to say no, and applying to projects only recently approved.

In summary I encourage the government to bring these new laws to the Senate, so they can be passed before the election.

Groundwater is very important to the livelihood of not only my local community, but also to all of Sydney, all of NSW and all of Australia. However, the impact of coal seam gas fracking and large coal mining on the water security in my local community and in NSW and in Australia poses a real threat to food security and the livelihood of most Australians.

It is of high importance to keep these powers in federal hands, because of the poor environmental track record of state governments, especially of the present Liberal government in New South Wales.

Kind regards  
Glynnis Brown