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Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications

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Gas-led recovery is road to ruin for farmers and regional Australia

Dear Senators,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission into the Grid Reliability Fund Bill 2020 and taking the time to consider my submission.

It is common knowledge that climate change is here and will be an ongoing and dangerous phenomenon, especially for generations to come. As the fires last summer heralded we are in the middle of a crisis- a catastrophe. The idea of a gas-led recovery as suggested by the Government will lead to the destruction of farmland and the disruption of regional Australia.

I am writing to urge you to follow the science. Gas is a fossil fuel. It is not a 'transition' fuel. Clean Energy Funding should not be used to fund more dirty fossil fuel. We should not be subsidizing economically unstable and polluting industries.

Farmers all over Australia are fighting back with Lock the Gate. But they cannot do it alone we need our Senators to support Australian citizen's rights to clean air, clean water and clean energy. And I quote: "Backing gas now is equivalent to government investing in the candle making industry just as street lights were being turned on around the world."

We've known that fossil fuels cause climate change for over 40 years. Gas is a fossil fuel. We need to act now. It is urgent. There are so many reasons against gas-led recovery I can't list them all. Suffice to mention that even insurance companies understand the risk. In June 2020 it was reported that IAG, Australia's largest insurance company will no longer cover farmers for public liability if they have coal seam gas infrastructure on their property. The risk of groundwater contamination is too great.

I would urge you to watch the documentary Gasland – made several years ago in the USA and tracking the gas disaster that has overwhelmed farmers and regional areas of the US.

Why should regional Australia be raped and pillaged by these gas companies simply for profit?

Thank-you,

Maria Miranda