

I support the proposed new laws which give the Federal Government the ability to block coal mining and coal seam gas mining if they threaten the water supply. Australia is the driest continent and we need to protect our water. Coal seam gas mining can pollute fresh ground water which is used for drinking and agriculture and these uses are more important than gas which will be mostly exported. Coal seam gas mining has also drawn down the water table in some areas and this should not be allowed to occur.

Please push these proposed laws through the senate quickly before the Federal election. I also urge you to maintain environmental powers such as these in Federal hands and don't pass them onto the states. I also urge you to give land owners the right to block mining on their properties and to extend the proposed laws to other forms of mining and gas extraction, even for conventional methods of gas extraction. Thank you for looking after the future of our water. Recently approved mining projects should also be subjected to these new laws.

Kind regards
Catherine Woolnough