

I am writing to you in regard to "Protecting water resources from coal seam gas and large coal developments: Senate Inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill 2013 [Provisions]". I wholeheartedly support the Environment Minister to take into account the water impacts of coal seam gas and large coal mining when assessing those projects for approval; and encourage the government to bring these new laws to the Senate, so they can be passed before the election.

Aquifers are not a resource that we can afford to contaminate, and even the possibility that it might occur (which has already been admitted by the gas industry will happen), should be a major cause for concern. This will affect the livelihood of a significant percentage of the population of Australia, and an action that once it occurs can never be undone. Every precaution should be taken to ensure that this never happens and laws and sanctions need to be put in place to guarantee it. It is also extremely important to keep these new powers in federal hands, because of the poor environmental track record of state governments. Please ensure that the responsibility for our nations safe and clean drinking water is in the hands of those whose priority should be the welfare of our nation, the people, and our continued prosperity.

Kind regards
Mark Rich