

Senate Enquiry Committee
Re. greenhouse gas issues

It has come to my attention that the planned LNG industry in the surat basin is likely to have serious consequences for the GAB and the Condamine Alluviums. Further the salt left behind , will be a big problem.

It seems that the Qld Government has had a significant shift in policy from a mandate of protecting and managing the GAB , to one of gross exploitation and mining this very special resource. The original main driver for this terrible situation , is the perception that coal seam gas is a clean ,green , greenhouse friendly energy source.

The volumes of water to be removed are staggering to say the least – between 4 and 12 million megalitres over the 20 yr life of the project – depending on which scaled up plan they take. This system is already stressed and has had enormous money spent trying to slow the depletion. Piping and capping has saved considerable water in the last 10 yrs but has been at significant cost - \$125 million approx. There is limited scope for this to continue and can't offset the scale of this new mining policy.

The recharge for the GAB is known to be very slow and is not keeping up with current usage. Because of this fact any mining of the GAB will damage the system and it will never recover. The Great Artesian Basin is one of Australia's most wonderful resources and this plan to mine it will clearly change it's unique characteristics forever. THIS IS VERY SAD !

The salt left behind will be overwhelming with 3 – 5 tonnes of salt produced for every megalitre extracted – 9 to 60 million tonnes of salt (depending on average water quality and final scale of development). Millions of tonnes of salt risking local groundwater and right in the Murray Darling catchment !

The draining of the coal Walloon measures will also damage local aquifers such as the Condamine Alluvium affecting Towns and production systems in our region. This is clearly unacceptable .

I don't see the planned development as being at all friendly to the environment or the greenhouse cause. It is clearly need and greed driven – government needs and corporate greed – VERY SAD .

Thanking You