

*Submission for the Inquiry into Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment  
Bill 2013*

*I wish to make the following submission to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill.*

*First I would like to say I fully support the Federal Government overseeing the impacts of coal seam gas exploration and mining on water resources. It is long overdue. The states have made some questionable decisions on approving CSG projects and after watching the recent Four Corners program it's becoming clear that the allegations of corruption and incompetence in Queensland and the rush to approve CSG projects in NSW have severe implications for our precious and irreplaceable water resources.*

*I would like you to ensure that exemptions in the Bill are minimised and that the Arrow CSG projects in Queensland and Western Sydney are not exempt. Sections 22 2b) and 2d should be removed.*

*Although there may not be the time to do it now, I strongly believe that in future the Bill should be amended so that it covers all unconventional gas mining such as shale gas, tight gas and any other gas mining. It should also make sure that proper independent base line studies are made of water, air and land so that the loophole is closed whereby a company can contaminate a river (e.g. the Condamine) and then deny responsibility because they failed to do the proper studies before they started. And basically the bill needs to be tightened so that where there is any chance of mining operations contaminating water, they are refused permission to drill. It isn't good enough that state governments have approved huge mining projects by simply believing the mining company's assurances that there will be no problems and if there are they will fix them up. Once an aquifer is contaminated or lowered by tens of metres, there is no amount of money that will fix the problem.*

*Jack Claff.*