

Drillham Action Group

Date:- 08.07.2011

My name is Paul O'Neill, Head co-ordinator for the Drillham Action Group, which is a little farming community in the Surat Basin.

Our area consists of cattle grazing, large scale Stud Cattle operations, grain growing, some retirees, and our farm supplying fresh Tablegrapes to the Brisbane and Sydney Markets.

Our Group would like to be represented at the enquiry by myself as a speaker, because of some very serious issues that we have about Coal Seam Gas. Some of the concerns are of the 2.4 million tonnes of SALT that will be brought to the surface at the Woleebee Site just to the north of us. Refer to the Qld Gas Company's own website page 70 of 176. (Can supply some copies on the day to Senators.)

Also dust, surface water and other obnoxious activities which torment and disturb the neighbourhood of Landholders and their families and there are also many other issues in providing Safe and Clean food. For our Grape growing enterprise it is totally incompatible with coal seam gas activities.

6000 grapevines aren't classed as Prime Agricultural Land because of the gradient of the land (5 degrees). Its just a joke about our prime agricultural land decision made by our State Government.

I really need time to represent our group at this enquiry to explain some real facts to the committee, of what is going to happen in our area and if I may do a small fresh produce demonstration on who it will affect our tablegrape enterprise and food safety, meaning a total shut down of supply to the Brisbane and Sydney Markets.

Governments of all levels we feel have let us down, because of stupid and outrageous one-sided policies for coal and gas companies - none for Landholders. Gas companies are sneaky with their negotiations with Landowners so we have decided that if, one landowner is picked on - you pick on the lot. This is why our Group has locked the gate to coal and coal seam gas companies. After all, all we want to do for this beautiful country of ours, is to grow food for it's people.

Hey, how about a fair go.

Regards

Paul O'Neill (Co-ordinator)
Drillham Action Group