

## Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill 2013 [Provisions]

The Rivers SOS Alliance of over 40 groups around NSW has been campaigning for protection of river systems and water resources since 2005, and we are very hopeful that the Senate will now pass this relevant bill legislating for such protection from both coal and coal seam gas operations. This would be a historic milestone in the progress of attempts to save our water resources from irreversible damage, in the face of short term profiteering. Our network does not oppose mining and CSG operations but a line must be drawn when it comes to possible destruction and depletion of the water resources in the driest continent. Most of our groups would add that a line should also be drawn in the case of prime agricultural land, which in turn depends on the conservation of river systems and the underground aquifers which feed them.

Kind regards  
Caroline Graham