

Dear Senators,

Groundwater is a vital natural resource for all life, including all us humans.

The fracturing of rock layers as in fracking to extract more gas, risks breaking the aquicludes (impervious layers) that hold and separate aquifers.

The huge amounts of groundwater that are pumped out to lower pressure and thus release gas are often saline. Salt water is a serious pollutant in a fresh water environment.

Lowering the water pressure and table underground encourages flow from higher pressure areas or other aquifers to "burst through".

In our local Northern Rivers area, and I'm sure throughout Australia there are many artesian springs. Drilling activity many kilometers away may compromise the aquifers that reliably feed these springs.

Farmers in CSG extraction areas are already experiencing lowered bore levels or in some worst cases, gas contaminated water or no water.

Ideally I would like to see CSG mining cease. There is no need for it when well researched documents show that Australia could switch to 100% renewable energy generation with existing technology over ten years. The total cost being about what we spend on defence every year (www.beyondzeroemissions.org.au).

IF CSG mining is to continue then the security of our precious groundwater resources should be put first.
The current bill is a good step in the right direction.