

It is absolutely imperative that the residents of Australia be heard regarding their concerns over the CSG industry and its implications. Firsthand knowledge and ongoing media coverage has exposed many very real safety issues relating to CSG. This needs to be dealt with before the CSG industry takes advantage of its existing 'rights' to vandalize our land and water. The protection of Australia's drinking water must be the most pressing electoral issue, so this matter must see expedient resolution.

The NSW State Government, despite ongoing scrutiny by the ICAC in relation to unscrupulous CSG related dealings, retains control over CSG mining. Whilst there is any question whatsoever regarding this industry, it is of the utmost importance that the Federal Government take control of this matter, and that it places the most stringent, and loophole-free, restrictions upon any industry that places our water, and therefore national wellbeing, at risk.

The Federal Minister for the environment, and surely holds the penultimate position when it comes to responsible governance re that portfolio. That being the case, this Minister should be granted the capacity to overrule irresponsible decisions and rulings set in place by State Government representatives on matters of national importance.

Any laws passed by the Senate should also be fool-proof, water-tight, if you will. There is no room for error in the matter of our life-sustaining resources, there cannot be. Wherever water or life is placed at risk, the Minister must refuse projects that create such a risk.

The presumed Democracy of this nation should also be reflected in such Laws. Where invasive and high-risk industries are permitted/'licensed' to steamroll residents and landowners, polluting their environment with toxins, noise and light, and potentially lowering the water table to such a degree that our environment is permanently damaged, there is no democratic process in place.

There are so many concerns to raise here, but no doubt untold others will cover the same. I simply submit my concern that CSG Mining is an industry with horrifying potential to create damage at a catastrophic level. The State Government has allowed this issue to come into being, and we now need the Federal Government to assume responsibility for invoking real laws that will protect real people and their land and wellbeing from this very real threat.

I urge you to make this issue your number one priority.

