

Submission on behalf of Coolabunia/Taabingga Concerned Residents

Recommendations to Senate Committee

Given the references above and the record of this company we believe that the Senate Inquiry committee should recommend that:

1. A moratorium on the underground gasification of coal by burning in situ be set in place.
2. An independent and comprehensive environmental impact study that is site specific be carried out before any coal is burnt by this process
3. That the Commonwealth Water Act for the Murray Darling basin should be implemented for all water catchments. The Water Act 2007 makes specific reference to mining under section 255A:

255A Mitigation of unintended diversions

Prior to licences being granted for subsidence mining operations on floodplains that have underlying groundwater systems forming part of the Murray-Darling systems inflows, an independent expert study must be undertaken to determine the impacts of the proposed mining operations on the connectivity of groundwater systems, surface water and groundwater flows and water quality.

4. The words in this 255A section of the act should be amended from:

*“mining operations on **floodplains** that have underlying groundwater systems” to mining operations on **landtypes** that have underlying groundwater systems”.*

All water systems are important whether on a floodplain or other landscape.

5. make representation to the State government to ensure an environmental impact study is made mandatory before projects such as this are allowed to proceed.
6. That a national classification of prime agricultural land is determined and such land be exempt from mining operations.