

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill 2012 (Provisions)

I applaud any effort to protect our land and water, therefore support the current amendments to the EPBC Act.

I live on the highly productive Liverpool Plains and feel it is necessary to remind the Senate of the importance of fresh water for our food and cattle production in our region, and across the state of NSW.

Extractive Industries has never been proved to be able to, nor can it, coexist with a healthy rural farming environment, and as their industry is a direct threat to ground water and aquifers, I believe that safeguards must be put in place to stop the effects caused by their industry, singularly or cumulatively. There is ample scientific data to show that the potential impact of CSG on our aquifers and water tables could be devastating. Once it is ruined, no "make good" provision will remediate the damage caused and the knock on effects are immeasurable, and indeed in-comprehensible.

The need for Federal Government to oversee these laws is plainly obvious and I wish to remind the current Senate, it is now fully exposed that the State Governments have failed to protect our environment, water and communities. We only need to look around our local region to be reminded of what is at stake and what they have already allowed to proceed, with little scrutiny.

Government must put in place insurances that Coal mining and CSG exploration and exploitation are safe (beyond the economic balance sheet) before any licenses are approved, and the decision must be based on thorough, credible, and independent research.

May I remind the Government, it's roll is to protect the people. Do not fail us!!!

Megan Kuhn
SOS Liverpool Plains