

Inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Amendment Bill 2013

According to the 1992 International Conference on Water and the Environment, water is a vital element for human life, and any human activity relates somehow to water. Unfortunately, it is not a renewable resource and in the future there will be a lot of water problems. Moreover, according to World Resources Institute, future wars could well be fought over water.

It is incomprehensible to me and I think to the majority of Australians that our government could be failing in its duty to protect the future of our water.

The development of the coal seam gas (CSG) industry brings risks to Australia's limited water resources. It draws contaminated water out of the ground, damages aquifers and uses and pollutes large quantities of freshwater.

Therefore I strongly support the proposed amendments.

My concern however, is that some existing projects could be exempt, such as the arrow Coal Seam Gas Project in Queensland and Camden In Sydney.

Other amendments need to also be considered such as an amendment to cover all unconventional gas mining, including shale gas and tight gas.

The role of the Independent Expert Scientific Committee must be strengthened

The definition of significant impacts on water resources must be clarified.

A set of requirements must be introduced for the minister to consider when making decisions on water resources impact.

Many Australians are feeling seriously disillusioned and let down by their government. It is this Governments duty and responsibility to use the Cautionary Principle. I am very pleased that these amendments have finally been proposed.