

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill 2013 [Provisions]

Water is the key to all life & especially in Australia, as its one of the driest continents on earth. The water in Australia's Great Artesian Basin & other underground water sources are thousands of years old. Morally speaking, do we have the right to contaminate or greatly reduce the capacity of this water source which is our children's heritage for short term financial gain? I think not: Water is far more precious than gas! Underground water is linked with our river systems: Look at the Condamine River documented with bubbling Methane gas.

Coal seam gas and large coal mines have a huge impact on the water security of all communities throughout Australia.

Many farming communities are totally reliant on groundwater or rivers that feed from mined areas.

As illustrated on the 4 Corners program last night, QLD Government bypassed the need for a proper EIS on water issues for their CSG approvals and approvals are going ahead in NSW without proper independent research too.

I ask how can this be??? And it's not just water issues but air pollution, methane emission, and health issues of residents living in close proximity to gas wells such as at Tara in QLD CSG mining may just be another Asbestos story, we just don't know the long term impacts. The NSW State Government has admitted their mistake now by exclusion zones of 2kms near cities & towns, but what about the rest of rural Australia - the people on farms like myself, or small villages?

It is extremely important the Federal Government takes action, and keeps the power for such crucial decisions in federal hands, because of the poor environmental track record of state governments in handling this important issue.

Yours sincerely,
Joanna Gardner