Senate Inquiry into Glencore's proposed carbon capture and storage project
Parliament of Australia
30th April 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this inquiry.

I strongly object to the proposal by Glencore's subsidiary Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) to pump waste liquid carbon dioxide into the Great Artesian Basin.

I am the director of Weemabah Pty Ltd, a company that holds ha of cattle grazing country in south-eastern Queensland. The properties "Moombidary", "Karto", "Wathopa" and "Boodgherree" are totally reliant on water from the Great Artesian Basin for the survival of the livestock that make up the business. Any contamination of this vital resource will be catastrophic for this business and the whole of the region that depends on the basin.

The Great Artesian Basin is vital for life in rural Australia. It is an important water supply for livestock and domestic purposes. It is a lifeline for rural communities. This resource cannot be risked trialling the disposal of waste material by Glencore's Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). The effects of this plan by Glencore to store the liquid carbon dioxide are unknown and could have disastrous effects. There is no precedence of liquid carbon dioxide being pumped into useable water in this way.

Imagine if the proposal was to pump this waste liquid into the Sydney Harbour or the Great Barrier Reef. This would never be considered. The Great Artesian Bore has as much significance as these resources and needs to be treated with the same care.

Like most properties in western Queensland, our properties are totally reliant on this sub-artesian water as the only water-source for the cattle. We rely on clean unpolluted water for the health of our animals and the quality of the beef that is produced. It is also relied on by the people who live in these areas.

There are concerns that if liquid carbon-dioxide is pumped into the GAB, the decrease in pH will result in heavy metals being mobilised from dissolving rock. These metals include lead and arsenic. This could be catastrophic for our cattle grazing business. The effects could be devastating with widespread economic, environmental and social impacts.

I object to:

- The unknown impacts involved in this experiment;
- The potential damage to the great artesian basin and the environment;
- The potential economic risk to the grazing industry if the water is contaminated;
- The potential environmental risk;
- The precedent set by this project;
- The social risk if people's drinking water is affected;

Regards
Rachel Greig