

I strongly support the proposed amendments to the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. The Federal Government should have a strong level of oversight when it comes to the approval of CSG projects that could potentially impact on a collective resource that is central to preserving the health of people and ecosystems in years to come.

It is imperative that CSG and large coal mining developments have appropriate environmental checks when it comes to impacts upon water resources, and that there be sufficient disincentives for mining companies to breach environmental responsibilities.

A clean, safe water table should be a matter of national environmental significance, and projects need to be scrutinised by independent scientists.

The amendments serve the dual purposes of protecting water and ensuring best practice in mining, and helps pick up the slack of State government planning practices.

With the health of ecosystems pivoting on clean water, and our own health on that of ecosystems, the amendments are a vital intervention.