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Ref: 3-07-6213GM.

12th June, 2011.

Senator the Hon R. Colbeck
PO Box 603
Devonport TAS 7310

DESTROY AUSTRALIA – ALLOW GAS SEAM MINING

Dear Sir / Madam;

This is a most insidious form of mining.

Gas Seam Mining will:

- 1) Destroy Australia's Aquifers, in particular the Great Artesian Basin, by reducing the water level in the bores and the feed-in streams, by polluting the water with chemicals and allowing toxic water to mix with the artesian water basin.
- 2) Destroy Australia's waterways, in particular by reducing the intake of underground water into the rivers, and allowing toxic water to mix with fresh water.
- 3) Poison the Earth's Atmosphere, from Methane gas leakage.

Studies from Cornell University in America, indicate that for the life of a gas seam well, 8 percent of the gas will be lost to the atmosphere.

What most people do not understand about gas seam mining is that the gas is Methane gas not Carbon dioxide.

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Methane gas is 25 times more detrimental to the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. It is impossible to control the methane gas from leakage of gas at the bore holes.

In a very simplistic analysis, if you multiply the 8 percent leakage by 25 and add 50 percent of the remaining 92 percent, the resultant effect of a gas seam powered electricity station over coal fired power station is that they are over 2 times more damaging to the atmosphere.

Cornell University study concludes that "The take home message of our study is that if you do an integration of 20 years following the development of the gas, shale gas is worse than conventional gas and is in fact, worse than coal and worse than oil." "Extracting natural gas from the Marcellus shale could do more to aggravate global warming than coal mining."

4) Gas Seam Mining will poison Australia's Aquifers and waterways. From the approximately 290 different chemicals injected under the earth surface, in very large volumes, but very small percentages of the mix, 70 % of the chemicals will return to the earths surface.

5) The sealing of the test bores and operational wells is with high pressure grout. It is impossible to control this grout 1.4 kilometers under the earths surface, and seal the leakage.

6) With the life of the well being approximately 25 years, even if the well happened to seal against the leakage of the methane gas and chemicals, how long will the concrete last, 200, 500, a 1000 years, what happens after this! I hope the earth will last millions of years.

7) Mining licenses for coal seam gas apply to most of NSW, why should only some areas be saved, in particular national park, forest areas, wine growing and thorough bred horse breeding areas, the whole of Australia should be saved.

8) Once coal seam gas exploration is established in an area, property values half, equity with the Banks no longer exists, properties are then forced to sell, rural areas and towns are then decimated.

9) Proof of expert opinions on Coal seam gas mining can not be accepted. Too many accidents are happening, too many valleys are being destroyed, and too much land is being rendered sterile. Mining experts knowledge lie with expertise in mining gas not in protecting the earth's surface.

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Many of the proposed mines say that they won't Frac. If a well stops producing the methane gas in, 6, 10, or 20 years I am sure that the well would then be Fraced.

10) Much has been made of the inhumane slaughter of cattle at Indonesian Abattoirs. Watch the video called Gasland from the American Experience, and note how the livestock are suffering in the gas mining areas from the leakage of the gas into the soil and water supplies. The animals and humans are getting very sick, losing hair and hide and starving.

Its time the present policies of the Federal, State and Local Governments, of all political persuasions, stop selling Australia down the drain, and start to realize how disastrous this type of mining is.

Gas seam mining has been banned in France with retrospective legislation, Germany is also considering banning gas mining completely, New York state and California states are also banning gas mining.

The United Kingdom now believes that the Fracing Process can cause Earthquakes.

Many valleys in America and Queensland have been disastrously affected.

Wake up Australia and ban this insidious form of mining completely.

Yours/~~Yours~~ Faithfully; ✓

~~M~~. J. Bryan.