

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing regarding the inquiry into the impacts of coal seam gas on the management of the Murray-Darling Basin.

The coal seam gas represents a major threat to the Murray-Darling Basin and I would urge that some important considerations be made given the importance of this natural water resource to communities and the environment, and the potential for the CSG industry to impact negatively on our water and land in a way that may not be able to be rehabilitated.

Experience in the Pilliga State Forest pilot production project has seen many concerning incidents including saline water spilling and contaminating environment surrounding CSG infrastructure and activity, overflow of CSG drill ponds into local waterways, deliberate disposal of CSG treated water into local waterways, and toxic water storage ponds not properly fenced leading to the death of native animals.

In addition to this we see the threat of potential de-watering and cross-contamination of aquifers including the Great Artesian Basin.

Coal seam gas activity has a tremendous impact of the environment in which it takes place, the clearing of land destroys large areas of habitat.

Each of these issues alone is reason for concern, and combined, even more so. The CSG industry has the potential to forever transform rural landscapes and agricultural land, as well as damaging rural communities. On top of this there are health concerns to consider associated with fugitive methane emissions.

I urge the inquiry to ban CSG activity in the Murray-Darling Basin, farmland, bush land and any area associated with our aquifers. I also urge that landholders, and Traditional owners, be properly consulted with and given the right to refuse CSG activity on their land. This industry must be properly considered, as must its associated regulatory requirements.

Kind regards

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Kate Ausburn