

4th April 2013

Below please find my submission

Submissions to Senate Inquiry into the federal Government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill 2013
[Provisions]

I strongly support the Bill and would like to see it passed quickly in the Senate. I am also happy that the bilateral approval provisions of the EPBC Act cannot apply to coal and coal seam gas developments that impact on water resources, and that there have been some improvements to the exemptions.

I would like to see that the exemptions contained in the Bill are minimised, and that key projects, such as The Arrow Coal Seam Gas project in Queensland and Camden in Western Sydney, are not exempt from it. Therefore, it would require minor amendments to remove s22 2b and d.

There are other amendments to the bill, that need further consideration such as the following:-

1. Amend the Bill to cover all unconventional gas mining, which would include shale gas and tight gas, and unconventional coal mining.
2. Strengthening the role of the Independent Expert Scientific Committee
3. Defining significant impacts on water resources
4. Introducing a set of requirements for the Minister to consider when making decisions on water resource impacts
5. Including a requirement for bioregional assessments prior to approval

Here in the Northern Rivers the community is united behind the world experts on

preventing CSG mining in our region.

It is NOT SAFE. We DO NOT WANT CSG mining, period.

The first document (see attached, "The Final Plea") presents not only the case for the environment, but also for the combined value of our local industries. The wording captures our core concerns in relation to the internationally acknowledged environmental and ecological values of the NSW Northern Rivers Region. It clarifies and exemplifies the value of the region.

The second document (see attached, "Coal Seam Gas in The Northern Rivers") outlines serious breach of conduct by the current NSW government and demonstrates its open contempt for the community.

These documents have been presented to the Hon. Tony Windsor and our own local member the Hon. Janelle Saffin who will be presenting them again to Tony Burke. This clearly demonstrates a community that appreciates the total value of the Northern Rivers.

I want to see accountability measures in place for all decisions made regarding our community. Amendments to this Bill is the beginning of that process.