

The Committee Secretary
Senate Standing on Rural and Transport
Parliament House
Canberra
29TH July 2011



To Whom It May Concern,

The farmers of New South Wales are in crisis mode as in late June 2011 the farmers association were in discussions with reputable lawyers and Queensland Council members to set in place access arrangements equitable to both the coal seam gas companies and farmers and graziers.

This is a totally unacceptable situation to farmers, as we simply do not want the coal seam gas companies to have any input to prime agricultural areas.

That being said, I contend if the farm areas do not want or require CSGs on their land and results of the gas exploration in Queensland is obviously disruptive to the artesian and sub artesian water aquifers, then we require updated research of the Great Artesian Basin and the watershed regions as they are fragile and any disruption to the usual system flows (in or out) may be catastrophic.

The impact on this region will be a many tentacled thing with the social fabric of the area being disrupted with the importing of foreign labour that is always associated with CSG companies, the local aboriginal elders will have major concerns for the impact on their impressionable young as do the local farmers and graziers for the impacts upon their children their family life and values, on top of their environmental, financial and animal husbandry concerns.

The underestimated problem will of course be the lack of regulation as the government on their own admission "has hit the ground running" as the regulations are not in place to rule the destructive process, which is coal seam gas prospecting. Who or what will monitor the emissions, air, water and soil pollutants as has been recently shown in Queensland and the Pilliga State Forest the monitoring system has broken down or is it simply non-existent?

I would require ppm {parts per million} if the CSG wants to drop a well near to my dwelling.

Government regulations have prevented the removal of trees by farmers, and water movement on agricultural land is constantly scrutinised, why are you contemplating allowing the CSGs to reduce hectares of protected flora, grid and bank agricultural land with roadways, release and emit possible soil and water pollutants close to animal and edible crop production areas, destroy the successful food and fibre production area on the black soil plains.

As a farmer, wife, mother and person living all my life on the land with my family these are my heartfelt concerns.

J.L.Rohde