

FROM: Peter Gillbank

SENT: Wed 10/08/2011 10:52 PM

Submission re Coal Seam Gas

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have grave concerns about procedures used for coal seam gas extraction in Queensland.

It is fantasy to expect that the massive number of bores required will do their job without unintended consequences such as contamination of priceless water sources, and farmland.

Contaminated aquifers may remain unusable for millions of years & the farmland above becomes unproductive.

At a time when it is reasonably predicted that Qld's food production will need to increase to cater for an evergrowing population, (much of it occupying once-productive farmland with housing), and increasing overseas demand, it is madness to cave in to the short term interests of governments hungry for revenue in league with commercial interests, to rip out resources with no thought for the future.

The tight grid of roads connecting the bores will be highly detrimental to our precious native plants & animals.

Some methods of extraction use toxic chemicals, and toxins have already been known to leak from bores.

Water extraction to enable underground combustion of the coal to release the gas will doubtless dry some farm water bores and cause disposal issues due to high mineral content, even if contamination by worse toxins such as benzene etc has not yet occurred.

I understand that the underground combustion process releases significant amounts of methane, a greenhouse gas many times worse than CO₂, so to claim that we should use more gas to reduce anthropogenic climate change is misguided.

Much more sensible to leave it in the ground unless we can devise safer means of extraction.

It belongs to the people of Australia, and we should not be in too desperate a rush to deprive future generations of its benefits.

Who knows, in the not too distant future we may need fossil fuels to combat an ice age.

Sincerely

Peter Gillbank

Qld