



Dear Senators,

The Senate Rural Affairs and Transport References Committee's inquiry examining whether CSG extraction will impact water resources, agricultural land values and the future of regional towns.

The question is not whether, but when and how much. See SMH front page 3-8-11.) The interests of the mining companies are not consistent with other land uses and the imbalance must be set right.

While most of the questions are set in the arena of state statutes there are certain cross-border implications, such as the pipeline proposed for taking gas from wells in NSW to Queensland via the National Parks region north of Kyogle. The area is a world heritage region rich in biodiversity and threatened/endangered species.

I ask you to respond on what requirements the pipeline will have to meet (for example a bond to be forfeit in case of environmental damage.) There are serious threats of contamination to ground water and run-off from mining operations and tailings ponds.

As regards the Committee's terms of reference:

the national implications of foreign ownership, including:

- (i) corporate and sovereign takeover of agriculture land and water...

I ask what legislative changes can redress the imbalance giving excessive rights to multinational corporations to export gas to foreign powers with scant attention to the sustainability of domestic food production and other land use rights. What rights of appeal exist for the Federal approval to destroy dugong habitat to build a gas export facility at Curtis Island, Qnd?

Thanks you for you consideration. I look forward to your reply at earliest convenience.

Best wishes for a clean future,

Scott "Grandad" Sledge

4th August 2011