

Senate Committee Enquiry on Extreme Weather

It is imperative that the Australian Government consider the extreme weather Australia has been experiencing when it decides about future coal, coal seam gas, fracking, other mining and industries that continue to destroy our atmosphere and planet at a cost far greater than the immediate monetary gains.

We are currently undergoing the most extreme summer heat that I have experienced in my 54 years on Earth. I live in Toowoomba that had severe flooding 2 summers ago, previous to that we experienced a 10 year drought and again the rainfall is very low this year and the weather is very hot.

The extreme weather conditions puts pressure on resources both natural and in the service sector that has to respond to these extreme events. Then there is the cost with loss of property, rising insurance premiums, higher electricity costs and increased water costs. Toowoomba Council has not yet repaired all infrastructure from the floods. People are suffering unduly with worry and stress that these extreme weather events create. This puts even more strain on our health and medical system. I wonder has anyone does a study on the cost to mental health caused by industry and extreme weather.

When are we going to wake up and realise that global warming is here, I want the Earth to be here for my grandchildren and their future families too. Please do not continue to allow coal seam gas and coal mines to continue expanding. We are a country that has amazing resources such as wind, wave, and sun for power. If the Government put their money into creating a square kilometre of solar panels in the desert we could probably power Australia! This is not raping the Earth, cutting down trees, polluting waterways, using valuable land that we need to feed the nation. The floods were severe because there is not enough trees and vegetation.

We do not need hundreds more trucks on our roads, another cost to us all as we breathe fumes and have to absorb road repair costs to maintain them because of the damage they do to the roads with heavy loads. Put the money into planting more trees, increasing rail networks, building solar networks to generate electricity. These projects will create employment and Australia will continue to lead the world in saving our planet.

Please stop the current practices and consider the future of people and the planet. Do not allow big industry to control our destiny and the direction we will take.

Kind regards
Tamara York