

7 March 2013

To: The Senate Community Affairs Committee

Submission Re: Coal and Gas Mining in The Clarence Valley

I am a resident of Yamba NSW which is situated in the Clarence Valley in Northern NSW.

After becoming aware of the devastation caused by the mining practices of coal & gas industries in America I began following up on all the information I could find on Coal and Gas Mining that is currently taking place or proposed for Australian regions.

I am now extremely concerned for the health of this beautiful country and all the people and creatures who live here.

Much of The Clarence Valley is wetlands and flooding is part of its beauty. From my observations under the current mining practices water contamination would be inevitable if coal and gas seam mining were to take place in this area.

State planning processes should require proper health impact assessments before coal and gas mining is approved.

There should be mandatory baseline air quality monitoring and on-going monitoring of both particulate matter and other potentially dangerous substances during coal and gas mining.

Standards in the National Environment Protection Measures (NEPM) should be improved – standards on particulates should match those set by the World Health Organisation and Standards should be introduced for emissions from gas production.

The Federal Government should introduce changes to enforce compliance with NEPM, possibly through their inclusion in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Extremely concerned Australian Citizen Jennifer Kemp