



Dear Sirs,

I am very concerned at the approvals given both federally and at the state level for the extraction of coal seam gas using the process called fracking. We have seen many of Australia's food producing areas, both crop and grazing, being "invaded" by these wells. The moral principles involved are unfortunately not involved due, I believe, to the influence of "big business" and the need to overcome large budget deficits. There are now many grass roots movements to try to halt this seemingly unstoppable tide. We cannot let the same thing happen here that has happened across the United States of America - total degradation of food producing areas.

My reason for contacting you is that these areas are also catchment areas for the Murray Darling system, and I am unaware of any consideration being given to the possible (or probable) contamination of ground water and surface water in these catchment areas.

There has been sufficient proof that these wells are producing contamination with the Premier of Queensland revoking licences for drilling in the Kingaroy area of Queensland, however this is only one instance and there are many such wells being built across the Darling Downs and well into New South Wales, specifically in the Murray Darling river system catchment areas.

I hope your Authority will look into this matter, as it is a matter of very great concern (there is no "scientific" evidence that these wells are a safe development in this country) and include assessment of their impact on water quality as it enters the Murray Darling system be it as surface water or part of the aquifers that support these river systems.

It may or may not be part of your investigative brief, I most certainly hope that it is, however if it currently is not, I hope that you will see your way clear to include this in your investigations. And to make public note of concerns held by ordinary Australians (and hopefully the Authority itself) about possible or potential contamination to one of the great river systems in the world.

Yours faithfully,

J. Washington