10th July 2011

Stuart Setzer

The Senate Committee
Coal Seam gas and potential repercussions on Agriculture and Water in Australia

To whom it may concern

I believe I speak for many-concerned family, friends and Work colleagues in filing this ***informal letter.*** *The issue is our mutual extreme concern related to the* ***potentially expanding Coal Seam gas process in Australia***

The major concern/s we have are;

- ***The insidious processes involved*** *which involves extensive use of* ***some five hundred chemicals****, and the fact that this we believe has been banned in France, United Kingdom, African states and Mexico, yet has* ***seemingly been totally ignored in Australia****.*

  Ref; Chemicals used in Gas Fracking process
  http://www.appea.com.au/images/stories/mb_files/APPEA_fraccing_chemicals.pdf

- ***The threat to the water table/s*** *is of great concern as demonstrated on July 8th 2011 when relevant QLD government authorities closed down the operations of Cougar Energy's underground coal gasification project near Dalby, after* ***elements of benzene, toluene, ethyl-benzene and xylene, known as BTEX chemicals*** *were found.*
  Ref;

http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/07/08/3264415.htm?site=southqld&section=news

  (These scenarios are the very epitome of our concerns and feel such anxieties are extremely warranted.)

- ***The issue of related permits throughout Australia****, it seems with little or no regard to consequence. Some permits have we believe been issued in major suburban areas again with no regard to consequences.*

- ***The unrestricted use of massive amounts of water*** *resources which apparently is required and once used becomes completely useless for any purpose being contaminated. This we also believe is the case*

*with off shore acquisitions as well. In addition, such emissions can only serve to be **detrimental to ocean life forms**.*

- ***The unrestricted acquisitions of land**, in particular valuable farming lands, particularly in view of the fact in Queensland such vital agricultural are a minority percentage. Less than 10% we believe of Queensland is quality agricultural land. .*

We believe Australian mining companies have admitting to owning approximately 140,000 sq-hectares in prime rural regions. Additionally Chinese mining and Korean Power Energy Companies own extensive Australian rural acreage with little control from relevant state authorities.

- *The **long-term contamination of land, by the use of** "tailings dams", which are to be used to evaporate off very questionable water after the process.*

- ***The permeation of soil and water by gases** as demonstrated in USA and Australia, which is well documented.*

- *The **potential atmospheric contamination by venting** of unwanted or excess gas forms.*

- *The **apparent blatant failure of companies to be open and forthcoming** in regard to public concerns and even their own employees involve in the processes and consequences . Given there is a he amount of evidence available as to the repercussions of this process.*

- ***The degree of liability/ accountability, or lack of by individuals and companies**, which we believe will become an issue at later stages when the worst-case scenario evolves.*

  ***Who would be held accountable?** Moreover, to what level of corporation and politicians should be held accountable before say, The International Criminal Court?.*

*(Such charges may include **Failure to act in the Interest** of their Electors and **Failure of Due Care** by the Destruction of a Countries infrastructure. ?)*

*But **the MOST crucial issue** we are concerned is ~ **THERE is NO going Back once this process is implemented***

*In closing; additionally we are extremely concerned about is the seemingly cavalier **attitude by Anna Bligh and the state ALP.***

*On Monday **July 4 2011,** Anna Bligh signed off with Texas, USA with a deal to supply Coal seam Methane. (Not including the contracts already done we believe with China, India and Malaysia.)*

Previously she stated she expects "QLD to be the biggest world's biggest supplier of Bio-fuels ", unquote.

An admirable aim.

But the concerns that we as family, work mates and friends have are concerned about here is the insidious process involved with the Coal Seam Gas extraction process. It seems to be that the state government has made little to no investigation into the process!?

Even here on the Atherton Tablelands, we feel it is an extremely concerning issue.

***The PM, Julia Gillard** recently spoke of the impressive **"clean burning" methane** powered power station at Dalby, but failed to mention, or chose not to mention the **repercussions of the CSG process** . It seems she is encouraging the process but does not name the process thus disassociating herself (?)*

*Then on Thurs July 8th 2011 in Question time in Federal parliament the PM used the term**; "installation of a new Coal pipe "** . This surely is further disassociation from what she realises is a dubious process? (Coal is not transported via pipe, only coal gas is transported by pipe!?)*

*We feel that this is not only a state, but also a very real threat to Australian wide threat to **OUR** green, clean environment.*

***The loss of WATER** IS the very element of Life itself ~ and there **is NO going back once fully implemented**!*

NSW has thankfully introduced a three month moratorium to asses the process , but Anna Bligh does not accept is an extremely risky process ? It is of further worry that such individuals will escape the liability ~

We feel this is the situation and we no longer have control of our "Back yard/s"

Regards

Stuart Setzer

Ref

http://lockthegate.org.au/

http://candobetter.net/node/2348

http://www.independentaustralia.net/tag/fracking/