John & Kate Scott

8/7/11

re : Coal Seam Gas – Senate Enquiry, Murray Darling Basin, Roma 19/7/11

We are Roma landholders significantly impacted by the Coal Seam Gas industry.

Since purchasing our property 9 years ago, we have developed it extensively by planting improved pastures, improving soil structure, building all new fences and water amenities, building state-of-art cattle yards and importantly building our home. We rotationally graze our cattle and pride ourselves on being progressive and forward thinking within our industry.

We planned for this property to be our business and home for at least 25 years with the vision of passing it onto one of our children. Our philosophy is that we are mere custodians of this land and we will hand it over to the next generation in better order than we found it.

However, now that the Coal Seam Gas industry is monopolizing our landscape, we don't feel as confident with either the future of our property or our own future.

We are fortunate that we have a good relationship with the CSG company we are dealing with – we are currently negotiating a Conduct & Compensation Agreement which is a massive responsibility as it is life long and goes with the property if ever sold. This is demanding hours upon hours of our time. We are not entering these negotiations by choice – if we had a choice, we would be pursuing our own business interests and getting on with our every day lives. Like it or not, we must now invest our time daily in managing the CSG activities on our cattle property – as landholders we are responsible for this.

Our biggest environmental concern is the impact that the CSG industry will have on our underground water supplies – the chemical imbalances, the salinity levels, the extraction of such vast amounts of water, the trial of re-injecting treated water back into aquifers and the disposal of potentially toxic bi-products of this industry. Without this vital source, our business and living will not be sustainable in this region.

We believe the current Make Good legislation is not adequate.

Why is there individual state legislation considering the Great Artesian Basin has no state boundaries?

Why are there different 'Make Good ' rules for different states ?

Why can the CSG industry extract water as a bi-product without a license?

Who will be responsible for this potential environmental disaster in 50 years time?

Who will protect our future?

How are you, as the nation's elected leaders, going to make this right?

The federal government has ultimate responsibility for ensuring the long term viability of the Great Artesian Basin.