Senate Inquiry ,Management of M.D.B. and C.S.G. Impact.

Dear Sir / Madam,

One of the dot points in the brief outline of this submission is ;

``The property rights and value of landowners``

This dot point is a critical point if Australians are to maintain their right to the estate of fee simple and control their destinies.

Local Government has been in complete control of land since its inception as an authority since 1842 , yet not enough credence is given to this authority.

In all the mahem about seismic testing and legal access and the threats of landowners being taken to the Land and Environment Court , nobody seems to understand that coal seam gas mining is a prohibited use in their local LEP and every local council can say ``no`` simply by saying , not enough is known about the long term problems of drilling into the water aquiffers . The risks to the environment are too great so we , (the local council) will exersise our precautionary principle and say , `` lets put a moritorium on this new industry until we are convinced it is safe. ``

The pinacle of power and or authority lies not with the Minister but with the Local Environment Plan (LEP).

Any form of mining on Rural 1a land needs council`s consent to proceed.

Why , because the LEP was structured by the local council , put on public display for 28 days , studied by the ratepayers and signed off by the Minister.

An LEP is the closest tool to expressing democracy the people have yet , Local Government is not mentioned in your dot points on the details of this ``Inquiry``.

Local Government should head the list because the operational mechanism of the ``precautionary principle`` is a safety valve for the peoples property rights.

The disposal of salts , nitrates and other poisons of this decomposed vegetable matter , now trapped thousands of feet below the surface ,soon becomes a toxic problem if brought to the surface and must eventually find its way into the MDB system.

In the dictionary section of the 1979 , EP&AAct it clearly says ,`` A WORK`` needs consent by a council in the form of a Development Approval (DA). Seismic testing is work . Drilling test holes is work. Drilling production holes is work. No one other than the people can alter what is written in the councils LEP. Certainly not parliament.

A council must be consulted in deliberation with its LEP before a mining company can proceed irrespective of the states use of Section 3a .

I believe my 29 years as a Councillor with the Narrabri Council allows me to make these definitive statements .

Councillor Bevan O'Regan