Committee Secretary
Senate Rural Affairs and Transport References Committee
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Parliament House
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I wish to comment on the Economic, social and environmental impacts of the mining and the coal seam gas development in the Surat Basin area.

This exploration started some 4/5 years ago when no one in this area knew anything about the farmers rights to what we could do regarding the access to our farms by these mining companies.

There are thousands of gas wells throught this area also pipe lines carrying gas to power stations and to the East and have started to go to Gladstone Port for export.In addition to the gas there is water extracted with the gas which is separated from the gas and piped to evaporation ponds, these were to be done away with in 2010, but the gas companies changed the name of these ponds and are allowed to have the same thing and the same out come.

This water comes from The Great Artisian Basin, this water has been the life of the western grazing areas for years, also many townships only have bore water for the towns.

The mining companies don't come to the farmer and negotiate where they the farmer will allow them to put a gas well or pipeline, they arrive with a map and say we are putting a test well here and a pipe line from here to there, it dosen't matter to them if the farmer agrees or not.
The open cut coal mine across the road from me came and said whey were going to put 49 chip holes and 29 core holes on our farm, they also had to doze tracks from one hole to another, for the drillers to follow, this ended up 23.5 km of dozed track 3 mtrs wide through open ex farmed land which had gone back to natural pasture, blue grass, NO compensation, they were to come back and revegatate the 23.5 km of track this they tried to do but with very little success. Some of the drill holes caved in when it rained, the water that came out of the drill hole lay on the ground for some time, a week or more. This water was salty for all water under this area is very salty, for example the gass well just outside my boundry was 3 times as salty as the sea.
I lost 2 wagyu steers and 2 wagyu cows and small calves when this coal company were trying to revegatate on our land, NO compensation again because I couldn't prove their activities killed the cattle, I haven't lost a beast here in 15 years that couldn't be explained why.
The mining company said I couldn't stop them. They are mining 24 hours a day since 17th July 2010, they are mining 2 km from our house with 3 D11's and a 430 tonn excavator, plus dump trucks and semi trailers carting coal from point a where the mine is in the North to the preparation plant and loading facilities in the South approx. 6/8 km. Then there is 3 train loads of coal going out to the East a day, the rail line is 4/5 km from our house.
The mining noise can be heard 10/12 km from the mine area depending on the wind direction. Our complaints to DERM seem to fall on deff ears, the mining company say theres some background noise, but you live in a mining area you have to put up with the niose, they forget we lived here before the mine was even thought about or the gas companies as well.
I said to one of the blokes from the mining company that if the mining kept up in the area there would be a Surat Basin Stockade, within two days I had the Police on my door step warning me, that the coal company and the sub contractor complained to them that I was a threat to their business.
WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO OUR BUSINESS?
The value of land has fallen in our area for there are farms on the market for sale and when it is

mentioned the mine expansion the farm inspection is over, people don't want to buy near a coal mine.
The noise created by the mine is up to 53Db at times today Sunday I was awoken at 2.30am by the noise which continued on between 8 and 9 am the noise was 44.1 to 48.1 Db this is well above the gidelines they are to follow.
Water pump outs have been reported to DERM but the mine report sais there was no water release so DERM believe the mining company.
Dr.'s report that depression has risen by 100% in the past 3/4 years this is all because of the coal and gas mining in the area. The towns are not receiving the business that should be from the mining companies, they buy direct from the supplier, their camps of men, food is purchased from the supplier direct, not locally. Even the mine workers have leave live in the towns around here but go away for their leave and shop before returning back for work.
The main roads as well as the local council roads are being wrecked by all the traffic using these roads, most of the local roads are gravel and don't stand to the excessive traffic over them especilly with wet weather, the miners don't stop travelling these roads, and dont repair them.
The new access agreement passed last October dosen't do anything for the land owner just delays the mining activity by 50 days.
There is a LOCK THE GATE situation going ahead in most areas now where the farmer is locking there gates to the miners and their representitives. How many will be in land court? Will this solve the problem?
How long will it take for miners and the Government take to understand that all the farmers want is a fair go and have the rights to have a say in what happens on to our land that we own?
I could go on and on but my feeling is that mining is like a CANCER to the families on the land.

IF THE MINERS WANT TO MINE ON OR NEAR FAMILY FARMS AND HOMES THEY SHOULD HAVE TO RELOCATE THE FAMILIES TO A SUITABLE FARM THAT THEY ARE HAPPY TO RELOCATE TO, if they don't want to relocate well the miners go somewhere else.

The Murray Darling water will be contaminated in a big way for RO water from gas wells is already entering the Condamine river, all runoff from these coal mines along the Condamine river as well as the gas wells all run off into the Condamine upper reaches, none of the wells or test holes as they call them are bunded, and with rain run through waterways into the Condamine river.

David McCabe