

With respect I make the following submission .

An authority no less than National Water Commissioner ,Chloe Munro called for better management of Coal Seam Gas exploration .

" We recognise that if not adequately managed & regulated , the industry risks significant , long term & adverse impacts on surface & ground water systems "she said last year .

The method of drilling is known as 'fracking' which involves penetrating layers of rock through aquifers to the coal seam .Enormous quantities of chemically - laced water is required to be pumped underground at high pressure cracking the rocks & allowing the gas to escape .

One of the greatest fears expressed by Australian farmers is of permanent damage to the aquifers & to the Great Artesian Basin itself being caused .One landholder claims the water table on his farm has dropped 10 metres since the drilling began .An hydrologist , questioned on a recent 4Corners programme (focussed on C.S.G.drilling )said that a lot of damage had already been done to the Artesian Basin .

Drilling for C.S G .has been widespread in the United States of America --apparently vast tracts of land have been contaminated ,streams & rivers polluted .

Judy Bloomfield ,