SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACTS OF COAL SEAM GAS INDUSTRY

FROM: Alan Ellis

BACKGROUND:

I have been farming in the Warra district for the past 54 years. Our farms grow and a variety of crops including wheat, barley, chick peas, canary, mung beans, sorghum, sunflowers and millets. My farming operation are in the Surat Basin of Queensland at the headwaters of the Condamine – Bolonne Rivers which is the headwaters of the Murray Darling River system.

SUBMISSION:

Free flowing bores over the years reduced the pressure of the water in the Great Artesian Basin, so in later years to conserve water many of the bores have been capped.

Governments and landowners have spent millions of dollars capping bores and running poly pipe to distribute water to various parts of properties. Many western towns and properties depend on the Great Artesian Basin for their water. We have no guarantee that the drilling of 40,000 gas wells and the fraccing procedure will not damage permanently the Great Artesian Basin and other aquifers'.

From reports to hand the issue of pipe lines and gravel roads traversing intensive farming land and the constant noise of pumps and lights at night, will make life unbearable. Another problem is the disposal of the salty water.

The fact remains that we have ample supplies of natural gas for our own use and to allow such upheavals to occur and the possible damage to the area just to satisfy the dictates of foreign investors is completely out of hand.

Our debt ridden incompetent governments see the royalties as a source of revenue at the expense of residents of the areas involved.