JW , JJ & B J Hill
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ABN 35 236 780 192
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Submission to Senate Rural Affairs and Transport References Committee

Our property is located approx ten kilometers south of Columboola on Freemans Rd, Miles. Our property boundary is the Columboola creek, which runs into the Dogwood creek, which runs into the Condamine River, which is part of the Murray Darling system. This is the main source of water for our stock. We run registered Angus cattle for the production of bulls and Suffolk sheep for the production of prime lamb sires.

We are concerned about the future safety and reliability of the water in Columboola Creek. **The Cameby Downs coal mine** is using untreated coal seam gas water in the coal wash and for watering the haul road for dust control, when it rains the run off from this will run into Columboola creek.

The information we have been given is that this water prior to its use, will be held in dams only lines with a clay mixture on the mine site, NOT with poly sheeting. I f this water were to escape into the creek it could make it unusable as the supply source for our stock.

It has been indicated that the expansion plan for the mine is to move the creek and mine where it flows and then put it back. This concerns us greatly as it would be impossible to guarantee that the catchments would ever be the same again with regard to the quantity or quality of the water in the creek. The creek bed and banks could not be reformed and consolidated to prevent erosion and then siltation of the creek down stream. During the mining phase we would also be highly concerned with interruption of the flow. We are also concerned with the previously mentioned silt issues because of the sodic clay soils and also because the mine has released water from the pit and the wash plant into the creek. This creek only flows after rain events so any pollution sits in the holes until the next rain event.
These events have been reported to DERM with no action taken to date.

Concerns with **Coal Seam Gas Companies** operating methods

- Devaluation of land values due to properties having gas wells, pipe lines and roads all over the place, with contractors etc coming and going at all times.
- Water contamination because they don’t abide by the Environmental Authorities Storm water management which states they must not let run off of contaminants into any water. It should be mandatory for sumpless drilling to be carried out. All material from this process should be collected on site in a tanker and removed to a designated site for disposal. The chance of these sumps overflowing following heavy rain and contaminating the surrounding area is too high a risk.
- The drilling sites should be bunded so that no run off of any sort occurs onto the adjoining land. Not just so storm water does not run onto the drill site. As whatever runs off onto adjoining land can then make its way overland in to waterways and eventually the river system.

- Possible weed contamination
- Sustainability of the Great Artesian basin with the vast amount of water being removed to access the gas and no guarantee that the aquifers do not interact.
- The vast amounts of salt and brine that could get back into the landscape.
- The building of large settlement ponds adjacent to waterways.
- The impact of increased traffic on both major and local roads has many affects, on the environment, the costs factor for repairs and maintenance, the increase in noise levels and the increase in accidents, increase in dust which ends up in our water tanks or all over our pasture.
- Impact on health- a constant barrage of a large number of people all wanting to do things on your land and the need to try to keep abreast of the requirements and your rights. The time taken with all these that you have to then make up in your day-to-day running of your property all take a toll on both your physical and mental well-being.
- Possible contamination of beef from either chemical or soil born animal diseases and the impact that this could have on our overseas markets.
- The need for companies to consult far more with landholders on where any development is to take place, not put it all on a map and arrive with a fixed plan in mind. The landholder will usually have a far better idea of the impact on both their business and the environment.

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