To the Senate Committee,

Hopefully it is not too late to stop the indecent vandalism of both the Queensland Government, the previous NSW Government and the mining companies who are robbing current and future generations of their rightful inheritance to a wonderful country which has until now guaranteed a safe aquifer system; guaranteed soil which is rich enough to feed us and our export markets, guaranteed property rights and guaranteed local communities the right to enjoy a peaceful and healthy existence.

Hypocritically, the State and Federal Governments promote **sustainability** and try to fool the public with their professed concerns about saving the world from carbon pollution; in reality they are encouraging and promoting an environmental catastrophe of monumental and irreversible impact. There is enough scientific evidence warning Governments about the risks of coal seam gas to the future viability of our soils and water supplies. I know the Government's reckless spending and policy-making is costing our nation millions and they need to fill the coffers. There are smarter ways of ensuring our wealth: agriculture is definitely part of the answer to a looming food crisis. A water system which is uncontaminated and reliable is the rightful legacy for our children and future generations. It is criminal to even give the slightest consideration to any plans which threaten our environment. Also alarming is the Federal Government's failure to scrutinise and limit foreign ownership of our valuable land.

Furthermore, the current Governments obviously do not value our democratic system which is supposed to give every individual sacrosanct property rights (unless they live on Crown land) and access to our politicians and to the right to be truthfully informed about decisions which will impact on the wider community. Unfortunately many communities, farmers and citizens who have lived on their properties for most of their life, have had these basic rights eroded. Miners can walk on their land without notice, drill their properties, pollute their local areas making it impossible for them to live. Politicians have not been honest about their modus operandi. The Orwellian world of intimidation, the repression of truth and the oppression of the people, is sadly evident. I am teaching 1984 by George Orwell to my students and am deeply saddened to see its relevance to today's world of Australian politics.

When the wider public realise the implications of the Governments' actions, the outcry will be more vociferous than during the asbestos inquiries. In fact the history books will condemn, not applaud the decisions being made in the name of 'progress'. What a farce! What a fraud is being played on the Australian public. One day this game of smoke and mirrors will be seen for what it is. Unfortunately it will be too late to repair the damage. "O what a tangled web we weave' for ourselves.

Shame on those politicians who condone or ignore this situation. Please take these concerns seriously and act quickly to stop these reckless developments.

Yours sincerely,
Annette Lovecek.