

Carolyn Heffernan

From: Jenny Chester [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 6 August 2012 1:53 PM
To: Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee
Subject: submission on Mines Legislation (Streamlining) Amendment Bill 2012

Submission/comment on Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee Standing Order 131

The general public have been given too little time to comment in an informed way on this Bill.

My main concern is that this legislation is being hurried through in order to speed through approvals/provide certainty for coal seam gas and mining industry exploration/operations at the expense of landowner farmers, the citizens of Queensland, food and water security for future generations.

As you are aware, an increasing number of Queenslanders are majorly concerned at the impacts on public health, communities, small business, the environment, eco-systems, wildlife habitat, fishing industry, tourism etc of the coal/coal seam gas multi-national industries. Most of the profits bypass Queensland, going overseas.

When considering this Bill, please find the courage and integrity to apply the grandchildren principle i.e. will Queensland be fit for habitation in 10 - 20 years time? Will you be responsible for leaving devastated/contaminated food producing land and (ground) water for future generations? Already many families are very sick who live amidst gasfields in Tara/Chinchilla

Along with this goes the precautionary principle and the fiduciary duty of care principle.

Chemicals utilised in the fracking process are dangerous to human life. There appears to be no independent monitoring - haphazard and under-regulated.

Plastic lined ponds of toxic produced water are unsafe. Disposal of the huge ongoing quantities of salty water involved is unfeasible. Flooding frequently occurs in Queensland - this means that contaminated produced water pollutes our waterways, endangering stock, farmland, human life, eco-systems etc. Ongoing use of massive amounts of water by the coal seam gas industry will dry up aquifers - drought is already no stranger to Queensland.

Dried out inadequately maintained bores and pipelines can leak methane/hydrogen sulphide etc. These constitute a dangerous public health hazard - in Australia as well documented in many parts of the United States

Fire hazard risk from flaring, leaking methane gas or hydrogen sulphide is a frightening concept for Queensland, already renowned for its dangerously high temperatures and bush fires in summer months.

Finally, it is reckless of Qld Government to permit gas hazard work to be done by farmers (employed by mining companies) who have no expertise in maintenance and hazard/waste control.

Jenny Chester
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