

Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 19
Submitted by: Daniel Hayllor
Publication:
Attachments: No attachment
Submitter Comments:



Graincott Farming Company

9-5-24

To: Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee.

Thank you for visiting our property Karinya on Tuesday afternoon and listening to our story about Coal Seam Gas (CSG).

The most important thing to look at in the CSG subsidence argument is what impact this will have on a land holders' ability to farm successfully now and into the future.

Our farm demonstrates the success of CSG and how subsidence has not caused any "economic impact within our business". This is the key fact within the subsidence argument. Yes, there will be subsidence that is even across a landholder's farm. However, will this subsidence cause an economic impact to that business. We do not want the legislation allowing for compensation if there is only subsidence, it must have an economic impact to that landholder's business, otherwise the impact of your legislation could in effect stop the CSG industry.

On our farm we have not had to relevel irrigation paddocks, our dam which is 50M from a CSG well has not started to leak, we run water up hill and have not had to change head ditches at all. In effect, if someone hadn't told me about subsidence I would not know. The only reason this is getting so much airtime is that fact that we now have technology so good that we can measure these changes in a paddock.

We look across our district, there has been CSG wells within the Grassdale and Condamine areas for the last 10-15 years. Business is still successfully farming within these areas. This is the key argument, lets look where CSG is, what impact has it had, the evidence suggests there has been no impact to a business's ability to farm successfully.

Changes that we make to our paddocks now that cause water to pool and or run in different ways. As land holders we.

- Tramline, we can end up with wheel tracks that are 100-200mm deep.
- We can run wheel tracks across or with the flow of water which can change the direction that water flows.

- The difference between a dry paddock and wet paddock (full profile) can be 75-100mm.
- We strip crop, stubble and bare paddocks can significantly change the flow of water.
- We currently have large wet areas in paddocks now due to significant recent rain, we had one of cotton pickers bogged within the Kupunn area on Tuesday. Both ends of the paddock were dry but a big low spot in the middle caused us to get bogged. This could easily be demonstrated as subsidence and would be a very powerful visual argument to the uninformed, however this is not the case.
- If you get on Google maps, there are lots of old plough lines within landholders paddocks, these can be 75-150mm high. I can demonstrate how these have shifted water and caused yield impacts.

You can see as landholders we cause some form of subsidence through our farming practices every day.

The CSG industry has built resilience within our business and our local communities. It has provided vital jobs, aided with succession planning, will have a multi generation effect on our business and improved local infrastructure. Landholders with gas are happy with gas and do not say much. The no campaign is made up of a minority of landholders who do not have CSG and have let fear drive their argument.

In summary, the CSG industry needs a subsidence management plan. It must recognise that subsidence will occur, however compensation should only be paid if it has had an economic impact to a business. All landholders have 5-10 years of yield data, it would be easy to measure if a farms average yields have been impacted by CSG.

We must be able to measure the effect of subsidence on a business profitability before any compensation (make good) can be paid. This needs to be done so the CSG industry can develop and continue to “co exists” with its landholders and the local community.

Regards

Daniel Hayllor

Director – Graincote Farming Co

