



LOCK THE GATE ALLIANCE INC

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Secretary: Sarah Moles

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The Research Director
Environment, Agriculture, Resources and Energy Committee
Parliament House
Corner George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000
EMAIL: earec@parliament.qld.gov.au

5th September 2011

Dear sir/madam,

Lock The Gate Alliance Inc (LTGA) wishes comment on the Waste Reduction and Recycling Bill 2011.

LTGA represents more than 100 community groups concerned by the rapid escalation of mining and coal seam gas developments and the impact these industries have on our land, water, environmentally sensitive areas and the health of people in nearby communities.

LTGA is deeply concerned about the lack of publicly available information or advice about this process, and the fact that significant changes to other pieces of legislation are effectively buried and not in the view of an increasingly concerned public.

We note that the Bill includes specific amendments to the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* that will facilitate the prolonged discharge of recycled CSG water to the rivers and streams of the Murray Darling Basin. We are of the view that the intent of the proposed changes is to further entrench the ineffective and inadequate policy framework the government is building around the CSG industry.

LTGA contends that this process is not part of the “adaptive management” framework, nor policy and legislation based on best available science. We understand the Healthy Headwaters study into the effects of CSG water on aquatic life has not yet been finalized and published. We can only conclude that the community is being presented with another *fait accompli* and provided with more examples of the special treatment afforded to the CSG industry; and of the government bending over backwards to accommodate it.

Re clause 329GA, LTGA does not support the sanctioning of emergency releases of CSG recycled water that may have an impact on drinking water supplies. Protection of drinking water quality should be of the utmost importance and a requirement under the Act.

We reject the notion of an up to 12 month-long emergency release. That up to a year may be required is a clear indication that the project and/or its operation poses unacceptable risks, is unsustainable and should not have been granted an environmental authority in the first place.

Re clause 329GB. Continued emergency releases for up to 12 months should not be permitted under the Act. LTG is concerned that no consideration has been given to cumulative impacts of multiple emergency releases nor the impacts on water quality.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Moles', written over a horizontal line.

Sarah Moles
Secretary
Lock The Gate Alliance Inc.