

# Environmental Protection (Efficiency and Streamlining) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

**Submission No:** 036  
**Submission By:** Celia Karp  
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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Health, Environment and Innovation Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Southport Electorate Office](#); [REDACTED] [Warrego Electorate Office](#)  
**Subject:** Re: PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC BRIEFING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2026  
**Date:** Friday, 23 January 2026 12:15:29 PM

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Dear Ms Jones, Committee Secretary,

I was a visitor to the Public Hearing and the Public Briefing for the Environmental Protection Amendment Bill 2025 held on 20 January 2026, specifically to hear and support Liza Balmain in her very detailed and knowledgeable presentation.

I would like to add on the public record the following:

Our farm, Wysall Park in the district of Springvale is also part of the Surat Gas Project (A joint venture between Shell/PetroChina and Arrow Energy). Arrow Energy in the last month's of 2025 began to construct the next phase of their programme in Springvale/Grassdale.

Our farm existing since late 1940's, along with others, are now surrounded by wellpads. I need to stress that our farm and others in the district are predominantly dryland, with some irrigation. Wysall Park, our farm is only dryland.

I took NOTE that during the Public Briefing from 2pm - 3pm with the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, this discussion, in part focused on subsidence with persistent questions by members of the Committee, particularly the Chair, Rob Molhoek.

It appeared that the Acting Deputy Director-General, Mr Kahil Lloyd when questioned about subsidence, was unable or reluctant to give direct responses. See below reason for subsidence:

**Subsidence caused by water extraction is the sinking of land surfaces due to the removal of groundwater from underground aquifers**

Furthermore during this presentation/Public Briefing no mention was made of Overland Flow, which is critical for dryland farmers who rely on this to replenish soil moisture which can benefit dry periods, thus aiding in crop production. Also Overland Flow is used for Floodplain Harvesting which is also critical for irrigators.

To the south of Wysall Park, lies the Horrane Fault. See below explanation:

**The Horrane Fault is a major north-south trending geological feature in the Surat Basin, Queensland, Australia, that has been identified as a zone with the highest predicted coal seam gas (CSG)-ind subsidence. The fault area is a focus of concern for environmental, agricultural, and community groups due to the potential for significant, long-term land subsidence that could affect irrigation, drainage, and agricultural productivity on the Condamine Floodplain.**

**Key Aspects of the Horrane Fault and Subsidence:**

**Location and Risk: The fault lies in an area of intensive CSG development and is**

considered highly susceptible to subsidence due to the extraction of groundwater from the underlying Walloon Coal Measures.

**Predicted Subsidence:** Reports have suggested potential for significant depressions, with some areas near the fault predicted to experience subsidence greater than 100 mm, and in some, possibly higher scenarios, potentially more.

**Impact on Agriculture:** The subsidence is not expected to be uniform, leading to risks of changes to topography, surface drainage patterns, and irrigation efficiency on prime agricultural land.

**Role of the Fault:** The Horrane Fault acts as a barrier or influencer in the pattern of depressurisation in the western parts of the Condamine Alluvium.

**Monitoring and Studies:** The Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment (OGIA) uses LiDAR data to monitor subsidence in the Surat Cumulative Management Area (CMA), including the Horrane Fault zone. Investigations have included Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) surveys and seismic testing to determine fault geometry and connectivity with shallow aquifers.

**Regulatory Concern:** There are ongoing calls for more in-depth studies on the fault's hydrogeology, particularly its potential to act as a conduit for groundwater impacts between the Condamine Alluvium and the underlying coal measures.

**Disclaimer:** The information above is based on reports and submissions available up to early 2025. It is important to note that environmental assessments and monitoring of CSG activities are ongoing.

Any occurrence of subsidence in this zone of interest would be devastating for Overland Flow for all farmers, particularly for dryland cultivation.

Subsidence, would depending on many factors, significantly alter the Overland Flow regime which predominantly flows from south to north.

**NOTE DISCLAIMER: It is important to note that environmental assessments and monitoring of CSG activities are ongoing.**

Committee please take NOTE that the impacts of Coal Seam Gas (CSG) are still in large part unknown and that assessments are ongoing and monitoring of CSG activities are ongoing.

I stress that farmers are not Guinea pigs for the resource industry and technocrats, who in their quest for further scientific knowledge appear to be willing to sacrifice the agricultural industry.

Once subsidence has occurred, it is largely irreversible. See below:

For example:

Coffey Environments Australia, project number ENAUABTF20484AA, SGP Stage 1 CSG WMMP: Subsidence Technical Memorandum, Appendix K, Page 29:

"The assessment process adopted does not account for recovery of groundwater levels and the predicted reduction in subsidence shown in the contour plot is not anticipated as the subsidence process is considered to be largely irreversible.

Underground Water Impact Assessment Report 2021, Figure 6-5: Demonstrates the level of recovery in the Condamine Alluvium in 2110. However, as one can see, recovery levels are still not attained as to the original levels seen in 2020. Clearly this demonstrates recovery will take well beyond 100 years".

The Queensland Government gave approval for the Surat Gas Project and therefore the Queensland Government is responsible for the impacts of the Surat Gas Project, as yet largely unknown.

Is this government willing with the full knowledge of impacts, to continue with this Project.

Underground water loss is increasingly becoming a reality across many parts of the world and yet our government at all levels is apparently willing to take that risk at the expense of water and food security!

See: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/jan/20/era-of-global-water-bankruptcy-is-here-un-report-says>

Please share with all members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Celia Karp

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]