

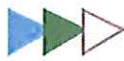
"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

*Tabled 15-2-13*

*Kathie Fletcher*

*Queensland Murray-Darling Committee*

*IA.*



## Summary of key issues

### 1.0 Key issues

#### 1.1 Underlying assumption co-existence is possible

- Need a definition of co-existence
- Acknowledgment that co-existence is not possible for some businesses and/or areas
- Establishment of no go zones/areas where CSG industry cannot co-exist with other land uses

#### 1.2 Representation of stakeholder interests

- Community interests
- Aboriginal interests

#### 1.3 Membership of Commission

- Community selection process (appointments by landholders and regional community groups)
- NRM and environmental expertise
- Public disclosure before appointment of any pecuniary interests in the CSG industry and CSG service industry
- No financial gain from CSG industry during role as a Commissioner

#### 1.4 Functions and powers

- Effective management with the first priority being prevention and avoidance of unacceptable adverse impacts on environment and communities, and landholder businesses
- Assessments include cumulative & site specific impacts and Commission provides best practice responses to those impacts
- Aligns decisions/recommendations with aspirations and targets of Regional NRM Plans and other relevant regional policies and plans
- Provides clear direction on how the CSG mining industry must primarily avoid, minimise or rehabilitate impacts or risks on the region's resources and ecosystems.
- Uphold the precautionary principle if there is not adequate science to prove a CSG activity is safe
- Provide direction to the State Government on appropriate timeframes to enable public engagement and disclosure and community input into decisions on all applications under the EPBC Act, EPA, Sustainable Planning Act, P&G Act and other Acts
- Provide an independent and critical analysis and overview of the impacts of all gas field activities and operations (construction, operation, decommissioning)
- Require immediate and regular monitoring and auditing of CGS companies' gas field activities



### 3.0 Success of Commission

The success of the Commission will depend upon:

- The independent status of the Commissioners from the CSG industry
- An honest relationship with landholders, regional communities and key stakeholders such as QMDC
- The influence the Commission will have on developing CSG mining policy and regulation that clearly protects a region's natural resource assets
- Advocating for sustainable development to safeguard the socio-economic well-being of rural communities over profit for mining companies
- Gaining the support of well-respected community leaders
- Basing decisions on peer reviewed science and taking precaution where necessary which includes saying no to some development projects and acknowledging co-existence is not possible for all properties and landscapes