

SUBMISSION: GASFIELDS COMMISSION BILL 2012

Comments by Steinohrt Enterprises Pty Ltd

- The landholder needs to be able to negotiate directly with the onshore gas operator without any involvement from the Government.
- The Government should not allow an onshore gas operator to forcibly enter a landowner's property ever.
- Every possible attempt must be made to reach a **fair** agreement, which will allow both the landholder and the onshore gas operator to work together.
- If an agreement cannot be reached between a landholder and the onshore gas operator, the onshore gas operator can present a higher than market value buyout offer to the landholder or provide an offer to purchase a similar property for the landholder to continue their operations uninterrupted by the onshore gas company's operations.
- All abandoned wellsites are to be returned to their natural state with natural or improved vegetation.
- All abandoned wells must be completely cemented from bottom to top when they are abandoned to ensure that there is no communication between fresh water and salt water zones now and into the future.
- Every possible attempt must be made to retrieve all radioactive sources, when fishing a stuck tool from a well in order to prevent any possible radioactive contamination to the groundwater.
- The onshore gas operator must provide the option to treat the water that is produced by the wells and provide it to the landholder free of charge, rather than allow untreated water to evaporate in ponds.
- There should be a standard contract for all exploration work.
- There should be a standard contract for production work.
- There should be an advisory committee not just an individual commissioner that must consist of an even number of organisations representing landholders and an even number representing onshore gas operators which will select an unbiased advisory body for any technical matters that need to be addressed.
- The commission must have a standardized database for receiving and actioning complaints from both landholders and onshore gas operators with a standardized process of how to efficiently resolve the issues.

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