



Paddy McLisky to: csg.review@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au

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History:

This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Dear Chief Scientist and Engineer,

I am writing as a recently qualified General Practitioner and a concerned citizen, in support of your review of the health impacts of CSG.

My main concern is that the cumulative effect of wide scale CSG operations on the environment - and hence human health - is not being evaluated comprehensively.

In particular I refer to the inevitable accumulation of displaced chemicals underground and also brought to the surface during extraction. I also refer to the accumulated depletion of potable water, and indeed water which is fit for agriculture.

The resources of potable water and edible food are of course as precious as anything else on this planet.

On a dry continent in the age of climate change water conservation MUST become a top priority.

As you know I am not alone in the concern that a rush for residual gas /profit in the twilight of the fossil fuel age is putting at risk things which are far more valuable than money.

Given that CSG is a business venture rather than a necessity, it currently represents all risk and no benefit to the communities it descends upon. Ultimately, communities of informed and health conscious Australians should have the right to protect their region from mercenaries who want to drill and then move on, leaving unknown amounts of environmental damage/health hazards.

Hence I humbly request that you recommend comprehensive baseline ecological studies of proposed CSG sites be mandatory, and that companies be required to supply some kind of hard evidence that potentially harmful chemicals used in their operations (or indeed displaced during CSG extraction) will not make their way in to ground water, or in to the air.

If solar power station applications were popping up all over the east coast I doubt you would have so many letters to read. If we could establish with confidence that CSG is as safe to humans and their habitats in the long term, then I am sure more communities would consider supporting the movement, just as solar power is widely supported.

Please help us to demand the evidence we need to ensure our homes and health are protected.

Kind regards,

Dr Paddy McLisky