



coal seam gas
Maxine Blackburn to: csg.review

26/04/2013 04:19 PM

History:

This message has been replied to and forwarded .

Dear Sir/MS

Please find attached our submission re coal seam gas. It is important that the chief scientist commission independent research re coal seam gas and not rely on the industry information provided. Could you please confirm that you have received this email.

Maxine Blackburn
Chair Ethics & Values Pillar
Ecological Agriculture Australia Association



EAAA State Environment Planning Policy [SEPP] Submission

9.docx



The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

9-4-13

EAAA¹ Comments on the State Environment Planning Policy [SEPP]

1. The O'Farrell Governments proposed 2 kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas, horse studs and vineyards is welcomed, however it does not cover impacts of coal seam gas development in NSW on water catchment areas, aquifers, prime agricultural land, state conservation areas and high conservation value land. These impacts need to be researched.
2. The coal seam gas industry has not been proven to be a safe and reliable industry. Coal seam gas mining has been shown to compromise the safety of our drinking water. Huge volumes extracted from the coal seam can lead to a major depletion of connected aquifers. This depletion affects drinking water, agriculture, horticulture, and the ability to produce clean green food for our communities.

¹ Ecological Agriculture Australia Association

For the advancement of soil, farming, food & community

Ecological Agriculture Australia Association [EAAA] is a diverse community of people and organizations who share the belief that the world urgently needs to develop bio diverse landscapes, biologically enriched soil, healthy food, and vibrant communities through ecologically, holistic and ethically processes

To protect our critical water resources the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority [SCA] water catchment areas, SCA special areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore there is no body of evidence to prove that this industry is safe.

3. Fracking involves potentially toxic chemicals and the contamination of aquifers. Moreover, there are disposal issues regarding big volumes of saline water pumped back into the surface. Research from The United States Environmental Protection Agency has shown methane contamination as a result of gas production and fracking practices. In American communities where coal seam fracking has occurred water supplies have been contaminated, and drinking water has had to be trucked into supply households. The chemicals used in the fracking process have proven to be carcinogenic and injurious to health.
4. Methane is known to be many times more potent than carbon dioxide as a green house gas. Wherever fracking has been practised methane has been found to escape into the atmosphere. In addition the leaking of methane gas from wells is highly explosive and dangerous. There are many documented instances of methane leaking out of domestic taps. Over 50% of wells tested in Queensland leak methane. CSM wells do sometimes catch fire and explode. CSM wells and pipelines are fire hazards.
5. A Queensland court has shut down an experimental underground coal gasification project by Cougar Energy on the Darling Downs after dangerous chemicals were found in underground water supplies. Carcinogenic chemicals were found in bore water. Carcinogenic chemicals have been detected in 5 water bores around the Queensland town of Dalby.
- 6 There is growing concern and mounting evidence about damage done to aquifers which cannot be repaired. Mr Dunn, a spokesperson for Australian Petroleum Producers and Explorations Association, told a meeting in Sydney that damage to aquifers was inevitable and unavoidable. In this driest of continents aquifers are our lifeblood. Anything that threatens water security must be banned.
7. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers Region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid inconsistency that leaves part of the state at risk.

We submit that the activities of the coal seam gas industry must be ceased until the nations resources can be properly safeguarded.

The integrity and preservation of our aquifers goes beyond the realm of individual states. It is a matter of national importance. The Commonwealth of Australia needs by legislation to become actively involved here. This raises questions of national security involving the safety of our water supply, and our capacity to feed ourselves from our prime agricultural land. The Great Artesian basin is a national resource and part of a wider ecological system. It is a resource of National importance and lies under 22% of Australia. It is the only reliable source of water in semi-arid areas.

The coal seam gas mining proposed for the Liverpool Plains, Hunter Valley, St Peters, Warragamba Dam catchment, Southern Highlands and other parts of the State will cause considerable environmental damage, pollution of aquifers and loss of prime agricultural land.

The damage to aquifers, agricultural land, and the contamination and depletion of the Great Artesian Basin will be an ecological disaster, which will affect generations to come. The extraction of coal seam gas is an environmental calamity. To contemplate fracking around Warragamba Dam the water supply for the city of Sydney, is environmental vandalism beyond description.

The development of the coal seam gas industry in Australia has been done by stealth, and a national resource has been traded without the awareness of the communities involved, all for self serving interest without regard to the constituencies they were meant to be representing. The role of Government is to protect communities not the mining and gas industry's balance sheet.

The State Government should declare a moratorium on fracking to coal seam gas extraction indefinitely until it can be proven that this industry is safe and does not destroy our national resources. There needs to be legislation enacted making damage to aquifers an offence to anyone causing or facilitating such damage. That includes politicians. At present there are no effective regulations in place regarding this industry, which has the capacity to destroy the non-renewable resources of Australia.

Given the risks to water resources and public from CSG, the Government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.

The preservation of our aquifers is a matter of national importance as is the issue of food production and security. We call on the States & the Commonwealth of Australia to enact legislation that protects our aquifers, health and our prime agricultural land.

Australia, it's worth fighting for.

Yours Faithfully

Maxine Blackburn
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FW: SEPP submission
Maxine Blackburn to: csg.review

26/04/2013 04:23 PM

History:

This message has been forwarded.

Please find the attached submission re coal seam gas. Could you please confirm you have received this email.

Maxine Blackburn
Chair Ethics & Values
Ecological Agriculture Australia Association

Specialist Clinical Psychologist

From: Maxine Blackburn [mailto:maxine@blackburn.id.au]
Sent: Friday, 12 April 2013 2:59 PM
To: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au; office@premier.nsw.gov.au; office@hazard.minister.nsw.gov.au
Subject: SEPP submission

Dear Sir/Ms

Please find attached our submission. Could you please confirm you have received this.



Maxine Blackburn Tunbridge Letterhead.docx

James & Maxine Blackburn

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The Director Strategic Regional Policy

9-4-13

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney 2001

Comments on the State Environment Planning Policy [SEPP]

1. The O'Farrell Governments proposed 2 kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas, horse studs and vineyards is welcomed, however it does not cover impacts of coal seam gas development in NSW on water catchment areas, aquifers, prime agricultural land, state conservation areas and high conservation value land. These impacts need to be researched.
2. The coal seam gas industry has not been proven to be a safe and reliable industry. Coal seam gas mining has been shown to compromise the safety of our drinking water. Huge volumes extracted from the coal seam can lead to a major depletion of connected aquifers. This depletion affects drinking water, agriculture, horticulture, and the ability to produce clean green food for our communities.

To protect our critical water resources the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority [SCA] water catchment areas, SCA special areas and other drinking water catchments across NSW.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore there is no body of evidence to prove that this industry is safe.

3. In American communities where coal seam fracking has occurred communities have had their water supplies contaminated, and water has had to be trucked in to supply households. Visit 'Lock the Gate', read comments on Gasland. The chemicals used in the fracking process have proven to be carcinogenic and injurious to health. Google 'Lock the Gate', go to Fact Sheets, Click on Fracking chemicals their use and hazards. This gives a list of chemicals used. Moreover Carcinogenic chemicals have been detected in 5 water bores around the Queensland town of Dalby. [Get Up CSG]

4. There is growing concern and mounting evidence about damage done to aquifers which cannot be repaired. Mr Dunn, a spokesperson for Australian Petroleum producers and Explorations Association, told a meeting in Sydney that damage to aquifers was inevitable and unavoidable. In this driest of continents aquifers are our lifeblood. Anything that threatens to damage them must be banned. There should be Federal laws that make it illegal to damage aquifers as they are the life source for our Australian communities. **The integrity and preservation of our aquifers goes beyond the realm of individual states, it is a matter of national importance.** The Commonwealth of Australia needs to become actively involved here.

This raises questions of national security involving the safety of our water supply, and our capacity to feed ourselves from our prime agricultural land. The Great Artesian Basin is a national resource and part of a wider ecological system. It is a resource of National importance and lies under 22% of Australia. It is the only reliable source of water in arid and semi-arid areas.

5. There are no effective regulations in place regarding this industry which has the capacity to destroy our resources of National importance. The activities of this industry must be ceased until the nations resources can be properly safeguarded. To contemplate fracking around Warragamba Dam, the water supply for the city of Sydney, is environmental vandalism beyond description. That this has been done by stealth, and a national resource has been traded without the awareness of the communities involved, all for the bottom dollar line reeks of self serving self interest without regard to the constituencies they were meant to be representing.

6. Fracking involves potentially toxic chemicals and the contamination of aquifers. Moreover, there are disposal issues regarding big volumes of saline water pumped back into the surface. Research from The United States Environmental Protection Agency has shown methane contamination as a result of gas production and fracking practices. In American communities where coal seam fracking has occurred water supplies have been contaminated, and drinking water has had to be trucked into supply households. The chemicals used in the fracking process have proven to be carcinogenic and injurious to health.

7. Methane is known to be many times more potent than carbon dioxide as a green house gas. Wherever fracking has been practised methane has been found to escape into the atmosphere. In addition the leaking of methane gas from wells is highly explosive and dangerous. There are many documented instances of methane leaking out of domestic taps. Over 50% of wells tested in Queensland leak methane. CSM wells do sometimes catch fire and explode. CSM wells and pipelines are fire hazards.

8. A Queensland court has shut down an experimental underground coal gasification project by Cougar Energy on the Darling Downs after dangerous chemicals were found in underground water supplies. Carcinogenic chemicals were found in bore water. Carcinogenic chemicals have been detected in 5 water bores around the Queensland town of Dalby.

9. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers Region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid inconsistency that leaves part of the state at risk

10. We submit that the activities of the coal seam gas industry must be ceased until the nations resources can be properly safeguarded. The integrity and preservation of our aquifers goes beyond the realm of individual states. It is a matter of national importance. The Commonwealth of Australia needs by legislation to become actively involved here. This raises questions of national security involving the safety of our water supply, and our capacity to feed ourselves from our prime agricultural land. The Great Artesian basin is a national resource and part of a wider ecological system. It is a resource of National importance and lies under 22% of Australia. It is the only reliable source of water in semi-arid areas.
11. The coal seam gas mining proposed for the Liverpool Plains, Hunter Valley, St Peters, Warragamba Dam catchment, Southern Highlands and other parts of the State will cause considerable environmental damage, pollution of aquifers and loss of prime agricultural land. The damage to aquifers, agricultural land, and the contamination and depletion of the Great Artesian Basin will be an ecological disaster, which will affect generations to come. The extraction of coal seam gas is an environmental calamity. To contemplate fracking around Warragamba Dam the water supply for the city of Sydney, is environmental vandalism beyond description.
12. The development of the coal seam gas industry in Australia has been done by stealth, and a national resource has been traded without the awareness of the communities involved, all for self serving interest without regard to the constituencies they were meant to be representing. The role of Government is to protect communities not the mining and gas industry's balance sheet.
13. The State Government should declare a moratorium on fracking to coal seam gas extraction indefinitely until it can be proven that this industry is safe and does not destroy our national resources. There needs to be legislation enacted making damage to aquifers an offence to anyone causing or facilitating such damage. That includes politicians.
14. At present there are no effective regulations in place regarding this industry, which has the capacity to destroy the non-renewable resources of Australia. Given the risks to water resources and public from CSG, the Government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
15. The preservation of our aquifers is a matter of national importance as is the issue of food production and security. We call on the States & the Commonwealth of Australia to enact legislation that protects our aquifers, health and our prime agricultural land.

Australia, it's worth fighting for.

The States & the Commonwealth of Australia must enact legislation that protects aquifers and our prime agricultural land. It should be an offence to damage aquifers.

Maxine Blackburn. B. Hort. Mngt. B.Psych. M.Psych
Chair Ethics & Values Pillar
Ecological Agriculture Australia Association

DR James Blackburn