



Coal Seam Gas Mining in Australia

Annette Dean to: csg.review

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History:

This message has been replied to and forwarded.

27/03/2013

NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer

Dear Sir/Madam

I write to you today to express my fears about Coal Seam Gas Mining /Fracking in Australia.

I have been researching CSG Fracking for a little over 2years now and the information I have uncovered is both horrifying and unbelievable.

I have both read and watched on the www/internet scientists and victims speaking out about the shocking repercussions where CSG Fracking has already been done overseas.

Evidence of contamination to both water, air and environment where it has been carried out. Victims speaking out about depleted, contaminated underground water, death, still born and deformed animals and huge health impacts to humans, both children and adults. Destruction to the environment that can never be reversed.

Similarly there are already people in Queensland; Kogan, Tara & Chinchilla, where CSG Fracking has been carried out, suffering severe health impacts. Headaches, bleeding noses and ears, skin rashes, breathing problems; tingling sensations. All symptoms consistent with victims in Gas Fields overseas. One little boy has been diagnosed with epilepsy, and another with chemicals in his blood. More than 20 healthy families struck down with health issues, which started shortly after the Gas Drilling began, and all suffering with similar symptoms. Debbi Orr has spoken out to Womans Day in their 2/2/2013 edition, in her efforts to get their story out to the general public.

Although they continue to document their health issues on u Tube, the Qld government has been to the area and denies there is any contamination.

If you search for Brian Monk, Debbi Orr(mother of 5 sick children), Marion Palmer and Dwayne Pratzsky you will be able to listen to theirs and other peoples story.

I know of people who have gone on bus trips to visit and meet the families at Tara and document their stories. One such person is Doctor Geralyn MacCarron (G.P) from Brisbane.

Geralyn was so moved by her first visit to Tara, that she went back with her video camera and filmed some of the victims telling their story and put the film on u-Tube.

Like the USA, the U.K and other overseas counties that have allowed CSG Fracking the properties in or near a Gas Fields very quickly devalue, and although victims have put their homes up for sale it's impossible to find a buyer, who wants to live in a gas field and pay enough money to pay out existing bank mortgages. Banks are also refusing to mortgage gas affected properties and Insurance companies are refusing to insure, deeming properties in gas fields "to high risk"

The most shocking aspect of the industry is the scientists who are speaking out, confirming increased seismic activity, proven to be the result of fracking. Areas that never had any history of earthquakes are now facing both earthquakes and sinkholes in areas where fracking has been carried out. While Scientists as yet, have not been able to understand the sinkhole phenomenon, they have stated they are occurring where underground activity has caused a cavity allowing the top soil to fall into, and they are becoming more common.

I have written (many times) to my local member (both State and Federal) and even spoken to some of them; face to face. They all tell me they have a 33 page document in place with the 'strictest regulations' in the country for NSW mining companies to follow. Starting with community consultation and agreement between mining and affected farmers. This is a 'pipe dream' because it just doesn't happen and the industry considers itself self regulated. With no one on the ground at the face of the mining, from the government, this document is not worth the paper it is written on. The original environmental studies were prepared by the proponent and slanted in their favour to get the applications through. All they care about is the huge monetary gains they stand to make from the Fracking. Plus the mining industry is very deceptive, and in many cases has been found to actually lie.

Politicians have also told me, they have banned the BTEX chemicals from the fracking process, but I don't believe this makes Fracking safe as experts tell us BTEX is naturally occurring in the underground coal seams and will be amongst the salty water which comes back from the extraction. They have also told me they have banned holding ponds, to put contaminated flow off water, but I know they are still being used, and are simply being constructed under an other name. Dams approved where there is no livestock to require a dam. Of course with the TWO recent major floods the eastern coast of Australia has recently experienced, the majority of these 'dams' holding contaminated water have flooded into the natural waterways, causing widespread contamination.

The Lock the Gate Alliance movement has formed in this country, because there are so many people vehemently opposed to CSG Fracking. The Northern Rivers under their Mayor (Jenny Dowell) took a referendum last year in conjunction with their local elections and got a 88.9% response of people who were against CSG Fracking. The government went ahead and approved CSG Fracking to occur in their region in spite of the knowledge that 88.9% of local residents opposed their action. Farmers have been left with no option, but to blockade the drill rig when it came to commence drilling in their area. Blockades in Glenugie and Doubtful Creek have continued over the last 3 months with between 200 camped and 500 people in attendance closeby to peacefully hinder and protest as much as they can. The only way the drill rigs were able to gain access to the site was because the government sent 80+ riot squad police to force protestors back. They arrested more than 20 people for insignificant reasons.

On Mayday 1/5/2012 between 8000 and 9000 people rallied outside NSW State Government offices at Macquarie Street Sydney. These people comprised of city, country, horse breeders, wine growers, farmers, mothers and fathers, families, young singles, retirees, the CWA, environmentalists, all united in the belief that CSG Fracking is very bad for this country and MUST BE STOPPED.

25,000 people rallied in Fremantle W.A against the destruction of James Price Point in the Kimberly by the Woodside Gas Hub. Reported in todays media as the biggest peaceful protest / Rally/ Concert EVER in Australia.

As a result the NSW State Government Premier Barry O'Farrell, modified their mining regulation documentation for CSG Fracking. They introduced a 2km buffer around residential centres over 1000 people (cities?) Horse Studs and Wine Growers would be given special consideration. They also suspended plans to drill 66 wells at Camden, Campbelltown, Liverpool and Blacktown in

Western Sydney as well as drilling horizontally under Sydney. PURE MADNESS. Have politicians taken leave of their senses?. Are they making decisions to hold off until after the Federal election in September? Either way, these changes , if they are genuine, do nothing to protect affected farmers and graziers, country people, OR WATER CATCHMENT areas.

The following are references to Google on the internet/www for confirmation of what I'm saying:

Doctor Anthony Ingraffea, Sarah Steingraber, Jessica Ernst, Gavin Mudd, Isac Santos, Damien Maher, Dr Theo Colborn, Deborah Rogers, Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith.

There are many others on there once you start searching.

I hope you will be able to locate all the u-Tubes of people speaking out about the suffering CSG Fracking has inflicted on them. Some countries have already banned it completely, choosing to develop renewable energy sources.

I apologise to you for the length of this message , but this is such a serious issue, and I believe you will be investigating the industry and making recommendations to the government by July 2013. I am a retired Grandmother of 7 Grandchildren between the ages of 13 and 2yrs. I seriously fear for the future we will be leaving for them and other future generations, if we fail to do whatever is necessary to stop this. I have never protested about anything before this issue.

I hope my information will help you make the right recommendations.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours faithfully

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