



**CSG submission**  
**MG & SM Marshall** to: csg.review

29/04/2013 01:56 AM

History:

This message has been replied to and forwarded .

Please accept this submission even though it is late . I am a wife, mother and business owner. I do not work for a mining company and get paid to constantly write submissions , research CSG and try to stop this industry until there is inconclusive science , provided by independent experts, that it is safe. I do this all in my own time, to the detriment of my family & business and sometimes they have to come first .

Sonya Marshall

ps: If it doesn't make sense remember I'm not paid to do this in my 9 to 5 job. It is now



nearly 2 am on Sunday night, or should I say Monday morning. chiefscientist.docx

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We are strenuously opposed to Coal Seam Gas (CSG) mining. As farmers we take the stewardship of our land for the next generation extremely seriously.

The following points we consider imperative to consider when talking about CSG and researching it's impacts.

1. The farming industry is regulated and controlled by three levels of Government. How can an industry as potentially devastating as mining be completely self-regulating. The proof of how dangerous this industry can be is evidenced in both America and Queensland. These gas companies say 'it is different here' but cannot prove why these same problems cannot occur here. I have toured Santos CSG sites in the Pilliga Forest and have seen dead animals, dead vegetation, introduced pest weeds and very corroded well heads that are only a few years old. These companies can not be trusted to self-regulate. There is also so much corruption and aggressive government pro-mining that any government department that is a regulator is not seen as independent. This includes the EPA. Santos was releasing poisoned water into Bohena Creek and this was not reported until an independent, private group paid for the testing to be done. The government should be monitoring this industry, not concerned citizens.
2. Environment:
  - 2.1. Native Vegetation Act: We can't knock any trees down (not that we want to) or disturb other vegetation to eradicate a listed weed such as mimosa but mining companies can make our landscape look like this (Chinchilla Qld - below) or even worse create an open-cut mine.



- 2.2. We are currently spending a large amount of money on Capping and Piping our Boredrains. This is to preserve the water and pressure in the Great Artesian Basin (GAB), stop salinity problems associated with open boredrains, lessen the amount of salt brought to the surface from the GAB and to provide cleaner

water for our stock. It is not to allow mining companies to use as much water as they want for free. It is not to allow them to bring salt to the surface and then put it into evaporation ponds which can never be rehabilitated. They say they have 'make good' clauses to 'fix' any damage they inadvertently cause. There is no amount of money that can 'fix' the GAB once it is poisoned or drained by overuse or inter aquifer leakage. Please look at a map of the GAB (appendix 1) and see how much of our prime agricultural land and how many towns and cities will be dead and useless if the same damage occurs here as in The United States. They said it wouldn't happen there either!! To gain a true understanding of the damage caused by this industry both here and overseas these areas need to be visited, not a sanitised tour organised by the mining companies, but a tour with the people that live there. The people that are sick but the companies say it is not caused by us.

2.3. There are no restrictions or rules governing the sinking of exploration wells. Test bores do not require an Environmental Impact Study. Damage to the GAB is caused as much by an exploration well as a production well. Why are the rules not the same? They are the same process and have the same end product, another hole through the GAB.

2.4. My main concern with CSG is the effect in 80 to 100 years time of the proliferation of wells peppering the GAB. Our artesian bore was put down approx. 100 years ago. It should have been done properly back then. When we capped and piped we put down a new one as ours was unstable and leaking between aquifers. In 100 years time, after we have 50 to 100,000 bores and test bores that have been capped after being used by CSG companies, what will happen? When they are returned to the natural surroundings (you would never know they were there!) as required, how are they capped? What qualifications do a driller employed by a CSG company have? I have been told they need none for a test bore. A department driller needs formal qualifications for any type bore. Where is it recorded that they were sunk? Apparently ESG put down bores and they are not required to tell anyone where they are. The Office of Water does not know where they all are. In 100 years the GAB will be peppered with 100,000? bores, no-one knows where they are, the companies are long gone, no government can afford to find them and recap them. So then we could/will have inter aquifer leakage, leakage from the top, salinity etc etc. The natural poisons released from the coal seams when fracking (without chemicals) and the fracking fluids themselves will intermingle between all aquifers.

2.5. The Pilliga Forest: Bob Carr's NSW Government locked up the Pilliga and got rid of the timber industries in Baradine and Gwabegar as they caused too much damage. Now this government are allowing mining companies to sink unlimited bores, create unlimited roads, knock down unlimited trees and poison large areas of land. How is this environmental vandalism allowed? What catastrophe will happen when the next big fire goes through the Pilliga? These gas wells often have varying degrees of 'leakage' as proven in Queensland and America. Imagine over 500,000 hectares of forest on fire with up to 7,100 coal seam gas wells exploding. My husband has just come back from the Warrumbungles. He saw where the railings along the side of the road and the road signs had melted into a metal puddle on the ground. Imagine if gas wells leaking fugitive emissions were involved. When you tour The Pilliga you can see a Santos gas well just belching some type of gas or vapour. You turn back to the trees and see evidence of the last fire with trees still black at the same level as the gas. No animal or human will survive that inferno. What is Santos fire plan?

2.6. Who will compensate us when our cattle become sick and are unable to be sold because they have been drinking poisonous water as has happened in Queensland?

### 3. Independent Public Information

There needs to be information available to the public that is independent and factual. Not provided by the CSG companies. They seem to be able to say whatever they want even if it is not factual. They have been shown up in many ways including airing adds that claim the farmers that own land filmed by them are happy with CSG and that CSG and agriculture can live side by side. These farmers never gave permission for their land to be used and are strenuously opposed to CSG. Another add shows a man that is happy to have CSG on his place. He has no

CSG wells on his place. They say the 'bad things that are happening in Queensland and overseas won't happen here'. They are caused either by bad operators or different environmental conditions. They seem to be able to make these and any other assertions they want without any proof.

4. Communities:

4.1 Local people become homeless as they can't afford to pay the exorbitant rents the mining companies pay. (evidenced in Dalby Qld)

4.2 Locals are seduced by the big wages and then can't return to their old jobs when they want to. No other industry can pay the huge wages they do. They become used to the lifestyle.

5 Health.:

5.1 Health encompasses both mental and physical. Why are all houses in NSW not protected by an exclusion zone? I do not want to have to live with noise, dust and light 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I do not want anyone on my place I have not invited that can have access to my children. I do not want to have sick children with constant headaches, rashes, nose bleeds etc and not be able to do anything about it. I do not want to not be able to sell my farm and get my children away from the situation because no one will buy an intensive industrial area to live in. This how people in the Tara estates live. Not a Third world country, not USA but Australia – The Lucky Country.

We only have 1 chance with our environment. We can't take chances on unproven science. There is no scientific data that proves CSG is safe for our water, environment and health. Please go and see for yourself and talk to the people of Tara, Dalby and America, talk to the medical professionals in the area. We need to stop all CSG mining and the companies have to prove the science that this is 100% safe. Our governments need to have some foresight. How will we feed ourselves with no water? The money will be all spent and the companies long gone by then. Our environment can not just fund a current budget shortfall.

**It should not be up to us to invest countless hours and dollars to prove it is not safe. They need to prove it is safe.**

Yours sincerely,

Sonya Marshall

Appendix 1: The Great Artesian Basin – 22% of Australia

