



Attention Ms Mary O 'Kane.
Craig Miller to: csg.review

26/04/2013 04:38 PM

History: This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Dear Madam,

Re-Proposal to extract coal seam gas on the Liverpool Plains.

My wife and I are directors of a family company, Winterthur Pty Ltd, which owns an aggregation of four properties known, collectively, as Bonny Rigg located on the Warrah Ridge Road and Bonny Rigg Road at Quirindi.

Our activities are principally related to the breeding and growing out of beef cattle (Australian Angus) while we also conduct farming operations on the property.

Adequate water supplies are critical for the conduct of any beef cattle operation.

While we have three small dams, we are dependent to at least 95% on water extracted from a number of bores which service troughs on a reticulated system. I am most concerned that any interference with the water aquifers may lead to a drop in water levels necessitating increased pumping costs or slower pumping by our windmills. Worst of all, if the aquifers were broken in such a way that no water was available at an extractable depth it would be necessary to investigate whether additional dams could be constructed (very doubtful) to service existing cattle numbers or our cattle numbers would have to be reduced substantially and a change made in our activities to expand our farming operations (which would not suit the substantial expertise that we have developed in cattle breeding and growing out) necessitating the investment of substantial additional capital.

I am also concerned as to the quality of water in the aquifers if coal seam gas extraction is permitted. It is well known that certain chemicals used in the extraction process are risky to human health – and no doubt to cattle health as well – while the failure of coal seam gas extraction points leads to the release of methane which may also have detrimental human health effects but, in any case, will substantially increase the level of carbon emission into the atmosphere; methane is a gas which is many times more detrimental than carbon dioxide.

The Liverpool Plains is arguably the best agricultural area in New South Wales and possibly Australia. That is simply the reason why we purchased the initial part of Bonny Rigg nearly 30 years ago. Without coal seam gas extraction or coal mining the area can continue to produce first quality food for many generations to come. I do not believe that the state can afford to lose or risk to lose such an area or even parts of it from agricultural production.

For all of the above reasons I believe that "the precautionary principle" must determine the result of any application to extract coal seam gas. There are too many unknowns which become too many risks. Those risks cannot be justified for what will only be short term gain.

The applications to extract coal seam gas must be rejected.

E Craig Miller.
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