



csq review

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History:

This message has been replied to and forwarded .

The Northern Rivers is a unique area well known for the beauty of the rural landscape. The land in this area has always fetched a premium price owing to the popularity of living surrounded by natural beauty.

The industrialisation of the rural areas of the Northern Rivers by the Coal Seam Gas industry is in direct opposition to the ethos of the area.

My husband and I farm 1300 acres in the Kyogle area. The threat to our water and land impinges on the ability of our farm enterprise to survive. Our income depends on being able to sell uncompromised produce.

Our superannuation relies on the ability to sell our land assets in the future.

A summary of the reasons why the Northern Rivers should be declared a CSG free zone is attached.

Please listen to our community



Patricia Holt a csg-free Northern Rivers.doc

Land Use

Mining and coal seam gas land use conflicts with other industries and land uses particularly in relation to agricultural land.

- The idea that land used for food production and food security (an essential Australian requirement) will be subject to a cost benefit analyses with mining (which has no life sustaining properties) is indicating that the Government has Australians priorities wrong.
- Sustainable land use requires that human activity only uses nature's resources at a rate at which they can be replenished naturally. Coal seam gas mining does not do this.
- The decline of land values must be factored in to Gas industry costs. Landowners pay rates while the Gas industry reaps the benefits.

Biodiversity

Farmers and landholders are best at maintaining the landscape and its' animals – they are there for the long-term. The CSG industry is talking 15 years. Then what will they leave? How will they be held responsible?

Water

- Water quality is irreparable and consequently *any* possible contamination cannot be tolerated.
- The groundwater resource is not infinite and any groundwater use needs to show benefit to the Community.
- The ponds holding “produced water” will be another liability of CSG industry. How are these ponds prevented from over-flowing in the annual floods
- The effect of drilling of wells in areas of alluvial waters to depths over 1km is unknown. What is the effect of extra stress applied deep under the water table? How secure are shafts in areas of high soil movement? What tests have been carried out on the properties of the chemicals being used? under stress? Mixing with earth elements under pressure?

Infrastructure

- Roads - the CSG industry does not pay rates on the land used, so where is contribution to local Council for road damage and maintenance?
- Energy – The CSG Industry is sending most of its gas offshore not to benefit the local area. Our energy can be produced onsite (our large cattle farm runs on Solar Power) without the harmful and possible contamination issues rising from CSG.

Health

The amount of stress the CSG issue is causing the community is hidden. A survey of local GPs may show increased use of anti-depressants since 2011.

The health effects being found in the Qld gas fields is another reason that areas where population density is high as in the Northern Rivers should be declared CSG free.

Patricia Holt

