



History:

This message has been replied to and forwarded .

Professor,

I make the following comment about CSG and agricultural land.

It was deep regret and some anger that I heard about the NSW government not setting aside some of the best agricultural land to ensure its protection in perpetuity from CSG exploration and exploitation.

The recent 4-Corners programme told me nothing really new except to confirm the high level of corruption associated with the obtaining and management of exploration and operation licences. How can we place our trust in those we elect to govern us appropriately when issues like this are uncovered.

It seems trite to state that without good well-managed agricultural land we cannot have the cities we have and are further developing.

The CSG industry is a transient event. Agricultural land is, or should be, here to stay.

Given the massive unknowns about the nations aquifer system, and whether or not CSG exploration and development will or could damage them, the associated risks clearly conflict with the aim to increase the population of this country. Clearly this is a case for the application of the precautionary principle.

Further, we live in a world where we know we should be decarbonising our society. As such our actions and activities should include change that alters the view that all exists for human exploitation. It is not about maintaining the status quo which is what CSG is about.

I believe it is the task of government at all levels to initiate processes of change that sooner rather than later will lead us to a world where fossil fuels are used only where there is no output of CO₂ or CH₄. Until we get to grips with this reality we are not going to leave this planet cleaner than when we inherited it.

This may not all fall within the terms of reference of the enquiry, but here it is anyway.

Thank you for the opportunity to state my thoughts and opinions.

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"The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children" Dietrich Bonhoeffer