

Submission  
No 428

## INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

**Name:** Ms Linda Brooks

**Date received:** 7/09/2011

---

Let a picture paint a thousand words.

The first file is photos taken at Dyraaba, well site Bowerbird 1, showing the mess with a lack of overseeing to this site. It was 4 months old at the time of filming. The remaining sediment left after removing the water to holding ponds shows the amount returned from drilling (this was a test site and only drilled once). The water in these and all other ponds overflowed in January this year during torrential rains.

The second file is images and testimony from Dobies Bight. This area has been constantly drilled 24 hours per day at approximately 13 locations within a kilometer radius since 2009. The noise and ground disturbance is very noticeable 3-5 kilometers away. Note the generators used are old truck motors. A flame has burnt this entire time. The residents in this area are complaining of continual ailments such as breathing difficulties, headaches, dizziness and loss of appetite. The disturbance to health both physically and mentally has had a continuing toll.

File 3 shows the result of the residents frustration that no council or government body is concerned with the water quality and residents of the region. Samples of water were taken from several of the ponds located at the drilling sites in the region and tested for quality. The results clearly show excessive Total Dissolved salts (which are evident in the evaporation around ponds and the subsequent flowing onto adjacent pastures) and a extremely high Oxygen Demand therefore depleting the surrounding soils of available oxygen if they are to come into contact with.

Lastly an attempt to show where some of the run off water goes to from these larger holding ponds.

Currently Metgasco is applying for a duplication of the holding ponds previously approved. These will and have overflowed into the surrounding districts. Legislation has been past to say no more new holding ponds but meanwhile the practice continues.

Salinity has been an ongoing issue in many districts of the country to date. Pollution from mining practices has already seen large areas of this country classed as inhabitable. Captains Flat is one very clear example of mining, the devaluation of property value and vast areas deemed uninhabitable.

The government has allowed an industry to rush head long into an processes and productions without any checks or accountability. Citizens forced to dig into their own pockets to try to ensure their livelihoods for the future.

Put a halt to this practice especially the rush to export it overseas without the safeguarding of the population of this country for the future. Countries with much lower OH&S and environmental regard are now allowed to practice unchecked.

I have these and other images in my head. I have lived surrounded by this industry since 2009. I and others do not believe that this could ever be in OUR best interests. Shareholders maybe but not us.

If a member of the general public polluted in this manner we would be fined. No department wants to look into this and we have called them.

There is no opportunity to have development Application heard at council, these for the holding ponds are approved by a council staff member only.