

Submission
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INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 5

SUBMISSION:

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by

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CSG RISK & ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION:

I bother to scribe not so much to argue the Coal Seam Gas extraction (CSG), but the principles behind the perceived need for CSG.

First my prejudice: I would prefer to see all CSG that involves the use of any chemicals injected into the ground, or extraction techniques that have any possibility of affecting aquifers – or carte blanche access to lands - now or in the future – completely banned.

Technical details surrounding this, along with local issues will be aired by many others, so this Civil Engineering Construction type won't delve into those 'waters'.

My approach is different. If adopted, be far more effective and beneficial to Australia and the world and exceed UN demands on atmospheric issues.

I offer some comments, an overall solution, a conclusion followed by some references.

SUMMARY:

- i. A solution to the energy needs of at least Australia currently exists.
- ii. The solution is not that which is being forced down our throats by a proved inept Federal Government and its United Nations master.
- iii. The solution removes the desire to even bother with extracting coal seam gas.
- iv. Inherently dangerous Coal Seam Gas extraction via 'fracking' with chemical injection can be rightfully rendered as both too costly and simply too risky to the environment and future generations of Australians.
- v. Furthermore, a reduction of open cut coal mines and preservation of our assets can be reality – a FAR better way to reduce a "carbon footprint" than a bureaucratically managed, stock market digested and regurgitated CO2 tax or ETS.
- vi. Current mining and exploration legislation requires immediate and coordinated updating as this and the quest for 'clean-green power' are instrumental in the rise of the CSG industry.
- vii. Governments have for decades been preoccupied with incestuous political machinations and frivolous legislation. As a result, Governments are negligent by failing to maintain archaic resource legislation to keep pace with technology and the energy needs of society.

COMMENTS:

- i. The issue of energy needs extends far beyond Coal Seam Gas extraction. The real issue is not CSG, but its place within overall energy needs of society. This is my focus.
- ii. Any farmer knows not to put too many sheep in a paddock, but that's exactly what modern 'civilisation' does. It follows that demands on resources of all types will exponentially increase as will the negative results, so effective action is necessary.
- iii. Engineering, logistics and cheap energy has allowed "The West" to develop* and set the pace for other nations to likewise enjoy a better life.
It would be folly to have emerging nations repeat 'our' mistakes, so a different approach is needed. I suggest a global approach far different to that being foisted on Australia by our myopic slaves who are behold to the various UN agendas.
*ref Hans Rossling: "200 Countries, 200 years, 4 minutes"
<http://www.gapminder.org/videos/200-years-that-changed-the-world-bbc/>
- viii. Making power plentiful and cheap has seen "The West" develop as has no other civilisation in history. It stands to reason that increasing the price and restricting energy demands within developed nations will see a reversal of advancement – and some public 'resistance'!
- ix. The simplistic cause and effect path being pursued by the Greens Labor Joint Venture is to make energy expensive and so reduce demand and in turn pollution. BUT:
This is causing and will cause vastly more economic and lifestyle hardship for most people, and all within a process that is designed to make a few very rich and simultaneously affording zippo* benefit to the climate.
(* The combined population of Australia and NZ is 0.36% of the world. Even if we were all dead, our combined demise would have zippo to benefit the planet.)
- x. The Greens Labor Joint Venture is a recipe for disaster. Disaster for the economy and disaster for the majority of people who are on fixed or limited incomes and who cannot afford to pay the compounding price increases that result from imposts on the so called "big polluters" – regardless of first level 'compensation' appeasement offers.
- xi. People's quality of life and industry are already severely affected by huge increases in power costs that result from: (a) 'green' initiatives and (b) criminally inept governance by at least the former NSW government. (which ministers should serve their lives in Jail for their destructive machinations!)
- xii. Industry will fare no better as production costs and retail prices increase and then compound at every level. Ultimately a civilian market that is already under assault by the JV regime will be unable to purchase goods as once was the case. And we are assured by those that 70%+ of Australians mistrust, that this will be good for us!

A SOLUTION:

- i. Engage me to restructure, develop and 'market' a new direction for the sustainable and non-polluting energy needs of at least Australia.
Laugh as you may – I am capable of such an apolitical task.
- ii. This direction can achieve far better outcomes to those required by the UN and Australia's commitments to UN agendas, and in shorter time and without commitment or money flow to money market gamblers. Furthermore, the UN will be starved of expected funds as its attempt at the first global taxation will reap them no benefits.
- iii. I speak of an ultimate international approach to achieve sustainable energy Valhalla – which at the moment is already possible though masked by local and international political agendas. It will require UN involvement.
- iv. This approach can be started in NSW, and this panel inquiry is the opportunity.
- v. I speak of an inherently safe, modular system of decentralised / regional power generation that uses Thorium⁽¹⁾ as the heat source for baseload⁽²⁾ power generation.
- vi. Thorium is but one known viable alternative to 'digging things up' to burn.
Some references follow to explain, and on request I can provide far more.

Notes:

Achieving this "Valhalla" is relatively simple and a similar direction to the CO2 tax, but for this inquiry, be subject to a separate approach.

Australia is in actual fact ideally placed to lead the world into a more comfortable and sustainable future. Sadly though, lacklustre and conflict based transient governance pursues other directions.

As a result, I expect this submission to be perused, highlighted in parts and discarded. So nothing will change – because nothing CAN change within a rigid system.

Thorium⁽¹⁾

- Known, proved but not funded.
- Inherently safe even in a total cooling failure.
- Results in minute quantities of low level waste.
- No capacity to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons (as with uranium based nuclear)
- Modern reactor design for baseload⁽²⁾ power generation. ^{(2) see annexures}
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- Added advantage of custom 'mini-generation' modules for smaller population centres.
- Minute quantities of very low level waste.

Just two links for information:

- <http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf62.html>
- <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/rp/2007-08/08rp11.htm>

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- i. **Introduce a moratorium** to cease forthwith all planned and proposed CSG exploration until, at a National level, until a thorough evaluation and risk assessment has been done to identify and protect resources and natural features.
- ii. I recognise that the failure of governments to keep mining and exploration legislation at pace with changing demands and technology will be politically risky and be a sovereign risk to investors – but what is more important? ... Our future or that of Governments and Corporations?
- iii. **Immediately prohibit** any coalseam gas extraction process that injects chemicals of any type into the ground.
Hydraulic or explosive “fracking” that does not utilise chemicals is far less a concern, but nonetheless, requires independently scrutinised risk and cost-benefit analysis to ensure that subterranean geology cannot affect any aquifer.
- iv. **That** GSG and longwall mining companies be required to pay a substantial percentage of the production net profits into an autonomous management ‘trust’ (‘superannuation’), where such monies and interest be set aside as an assurance for the community to repair / reinstate ground and waterways to the previous undisturbed state.
That such a levy quantum be determined from risk analysis, aimed to end the legacy of damage left on communities once corporations are dissolved.
- v. **That** directors and shareholders in these companies be made personally liable for any damage and all remedial work and to an unlimited extent and time.
- vi. Below ground resources belong to the nation, and so the nation must benefit to a greater degree than corporations. This must be so because the resources are finite, and so require eking out – not squandering in corporate and government orgies of greed.
- vii. This is no different to Arab States manipulating oil prices, so that they benefit the most from their finite resources. Why should Australia differ?
- viii. Future generations must not be left with worthless holes in the ground and fractured landscapes and polluted water resources.
- ix. **That** immediately, federal and state laws are changed to stop the sale of land, resources and farms to foreign entities and ‘turnkey’ processes that use Australia as an extension of their own lands to supply their needs. Just two mining examples:
Shenhua (China) and Adani (India) purchase of TOTAL processes to manage, extract, handle, transport locally and internationally to foreign destination and so bypass Australian markets and processes.
Add the sale of our best agricultural lands and primary industries to at least China.
- x. Australia must not become the milking goat to satisfy foreign needs of other nations who pay a mere toll to government via insignificant royalties.
- xi. Governments subservient to the UN “Free Trade” agenda are allowing this nation to be raped as we breathe. (references for all the above are available – of course!)

CONCLUSIONS:

It is at least foolhardy, nay criminal, to embark on CSG* extraction that involves the injection of chemicals or any substance into the ground that might cause any form of pollution.

It is also morally obnoxious that governments have through their own ineptitude and political machinations, allowed and condoned by law, the spread of the CSG* industry.

It is worse that governments and bureaucracies have rendered landowners as servile to mining exploration, mining and law.

It is even worse that governments and bureaucracies have allowed an industry to proceed which has an internationally recognised bad environmental track record.

That an industry is allowed to proceed on practically all lands in the quest for resources without regard for historical or current use is simply criminal.

That law and governments aid and abet an industry which predominantly employs methods that desecrate the topography and flora and the habitats of fauna in a series of connecting arteries and sterile patchwork of wellheads – is abominable.

That law and governments aid and abet an industry that by necessity injects toxic poisons into the ground, then regurgitates some of the toxins to the surface for either reuse or disposal – is the height of absurdity.

That this industry now exists predominantly to sell gas to international markets, leaving Australians to pay ever increasing prices for energy and 'we' are supposedly better off for our sacrifices.

That this is being done in the name of 'green power' and environmentally beneficial factors is a lie and contradiction of the highest order.

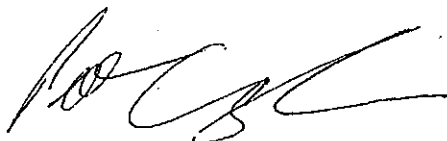
This behaviour will see those governments brought down and ensure they never return.

Finally:

CSG is happening when at least one far safer and less destructive form of power generation is proved and nearly practical.

To embark on archaic practices of digging something up, then burning it to create heat and waste gases says nothing of those 'steering the ship'.

As I said earlier, I expect this submission to be perused, highlighted in parts and discarded. So nothing will change – because nothing CAN change within a rigid system.



Peter Cunningham (MAIB and more)

PERTINENT OBSERVATIONS:

- i. Governments are culpable for the cancerous spread of the “CSG” industries.
- ii. Governments have for decades been preoccupied with incestuous political machinations and frivolous legislation. As a result, Governments are negligent by failing to maintain archaic resource legislation to keep pace with technology and the energy needs of society.
- iii. Governments are negligent because though elected to manage the nation / state – they clearly have failed to do so. The conflict over resources that precipitates this inquiry would not exist had legislation been updated to identify and protect respective land and resource use.
- iv. Federal Government has and is slavishly following the UN inspired Agenda21 and the “Climate Change Demon” that stems from it.
- v. The quest for “clean energy” has given rise to the CSG industry. A known risky and dirty industry that is effectively the result of being seen to be ‘green’.
- vi. Speculative companies flourish and will inevitably be bought out by an industry that will reduce to two or three big players. All will absolve themselves of any responsibility for damage done.
- vii. Landowners are rendered impotent by archaic legislation.
- viii. The muscle of government – Police – have no choice but to uphold (poor) law, and effectively aid and abet mining companies as they infringe on private rural lands. For that, legislators past and present are culpable.
- ix. Prime Minister Gillard and ilk have lied and manipulated and continue to do so.
- x. Governments have engineered themselves into the predicament where the failure to maintain legislation to manage Australia’s resources and infrastructure, has given rise to investment in a ‘new’ energy industry.

ANNEXURES FOLLOW

ANNEXURE - "BASELOAD POWER" _ WHAT IS IT – HOW DOES IT WORK?

"**Baseload power**⁽²⁾" is not technically correct. It is partly a myth contrived by the electricity supply companies to more easily manage the generators, but for simplicity:

Baseload power generation is vital – something that will never be achieved by any combination of naturally sourced power – but what is it?

Essentially, a force is required to turn massive turbines that in turn connect to a generator, which in turn comprises of a series of static and spinning magnetic fields to generate electricity, which in turn is fed into "the grid".

That force can be from water, wind, steam – anything that can turn the innards of a generator.

The power generated must be used* – it just doesn't sink into a hole and disappear.

As individuals, we tap into that power source and take a little bit at a time – an analogy being to turning on your tap. However, when viewed from a whole society does that but in a nearly chaotic manner.

To cope with fluctuations and balance the ins and outs, a number of measures are taken:

- a) Huge generators generate core power needs and run 'constantly'.
- b) Peaking generators are used in addition to supply any predicted or unpredicted peak loading, and can be switched in or out as required. The peak generators are smaller, more responsive to change and easier to control.
- c) To balance a system on a 24 hour basis requires great care, and a variety of measures* are adopted to maintain a steady load on the generators. Pumping water up to local reservoirs, pumping sewage up to holding tanks to gravity feed elsewhere is another. "off peak" hot water is another. Even pumping water from the bottom of a hydro plant back up into the dam...

Energy that is generated must be used*, so a balanced system employs buffer techniques to use the power, such as; "off peak" power / pumping sewage or water up into header tanks (etc). This is why energy saving initiatives are most often meaningless and can be damaging to a system.

In our increasingly specialised society, most people take electricity for granted and do not understand (or want to). Society is bombarded with simplistic 'demons' to keep the populace alarmed and malleable to the whims of governments.

Regardless of subject – Guns, WMD, Speed, Safety, Climate Change & CO2 – all are demons that result in 'feel good' initiatives that rarely achieve aims, and most often serve those intent on control.

Best said by H.L. Mencken 1923. *Hobgoblins: "The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary."*

ANNEXURE - ENERGY:

Simply put, “energy” is either static or mobile.

The most universal type is static (grid) / fixed electricity, but its very sources are problematic. The other is ‘Portable Energy’, but its very sources are also problematic.

Portable is required to move people and goods rapidly and effectively, and is historically and currently served by the petrochemical industries that exploit finite resources.

Portable energy can now be safely created from ‘static’ energy. The cheaper that energy is, then the more portable energy we can have, and the less will be our impact on this earth.

But not surprisingly and typical of the “Governmentum” simplistic broad brush approaches, they demand the opposite. They believe that increased costs will achieve the greatest benefits, when the opposite is true. Howso?

I argue that the ‘developed’ world is that because of ‘recent’ (200 years) abundant and relatively cheap fuel (coal & oil). This energy has enabled massive advances in transport efficiencies, and allowed large scale manufacturing.

Reducing the use of fuel by cost imposts alone, will only make people suffer by reducing their mobility and living standards considerably, but make some very rich indeed and empower others.

ANNEXURE: Some references:

- (1) Dr. Richard Muller
http://berkeleyearth.org/Resources/Muller_Testimony_31_March_2011
- (2) Dr Anthony Watts conditions Muller:
http://wattsupwiththat.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/response_to_muller_testimony.pdf
- (3) UN – Agenda 21:
<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/english/agenda21toc.htm>
- (4) UN – Monterrey Consensus:
http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_majoagreconvover_montcons.shtml
- (5) UN Conventions & Laws (standard clause): *“Countries that have ratified or acceded to the Convention are legally bound to put its provisions into practice.”*
- (6) Inst of Engineers_Nuclear & Waste (& more): <http://eashtrg.rollo.com.au/index1.htm>
- (7) UN: <http://www.un.org/en/>
- (8) UN – Tricks & Treaties: <http://morphcity.com/home/86-un-tricks-and-treaties>
- (9) UN’s nuclear Bank: <http://morphcity.com/home/98-united-nations-nuclear-bank>
- (10) UN Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women - CEDAW:
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>
within: *“Affirming that the strengthening of international peace and security, the relaxation of international tension, mutual co-operation among all States irrespective of their social and economic systems, general and complete disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control,.....”*
- (11) Fukushima – The Meltdown that wasn’t:
<http://www.nature.com/news/2011/110322/full/471417a.html>
- (12) Terrapower: <http://www.terrapower.com/Home.aspx>
- (13) Nuclear cover-up’s: www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=23764
- (14) Meltdownproof reactor: <http://www.smartplanet.com/technology/blog/thinking-tech/a-meltdown-proof-nuclear-reactor-may-alleviate-fears/6494/>
- (15) A wealth of information: http://mclean.ch/climate/global_warming.htm

The list is non-exhaustive.