

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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Date received: 16/11/2011

Partially Confidential

COAL SEAM GAS ENQUIRY HEARING

Narrabri 16 November 2011

The Convenor of this enquiry has indicated via the press that we should present facts. There is unfortunately a serious vacuum regarding the availability of facts from all levels of Government on which to build our submissions.

We are told that \$2.5 million has been allocated to D.P.I. staff at Orange for land classification mapping and that new legislation is imminent.

Some fundamental facts we would like to know include:

WHO WILL OWN OR BENEFIT FROM AND IN WHAT PROPORTIONS, THE MINERALS AND GASSES UNDER THESE LANDS AND BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION OF THESE AREAS?

- The Commonwealth?
- The States?
- The mining companies?
- Torrens Title landholders (pre 1910 titles only)?
- All citizens?
- Those within or the areas of extraction?
- Foreign interests?

Before we can receive and contemplate these and other facts.

- MINERS HAVE MOVED INTO THIS FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT WITH UNKNOWN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- THE WORLDS POPULATION PASSED 7 BILLION

We have a short time to either defend or destroy this small oasis in the Australian desert. The Liverpool Plains is now in the hands of the final decision makers, whose rulings will affect us all, now and for generations to come.

SUGGESTIONS

to the Parliamentary Committee Enquiry into Coal Seam Gas
Narrabri 16 November 2011

Reference: my submission of 22 August 2011

1. RESTRICT mining to non-agricultural land, including prime grazing areas,
2. LIMIT foreign ownership to a maximum of 49% equity in all land titles,
3. COMPENSATE those affected by providing a proportion of fossil fuel royalties to:
 - (a) Construction of dams, weirs and sealed water distribution networks.
 - (b) Provide loans for on-farm water storage and harvesting (e.g. turkey nest dams) and irrigation works and equipment.
 - (c) Develop and install aquifer recharge devices
 - (d) Complete inland rail links
 - (e) Re-examine Iluka as a future port and pipeline receival centre for gas and slurried bulk materials
 - (f) Investigate feasibility and viability of air freighter facilities at Tamworth, Quirindi or other regional airports
 - (g) Faster regional processing of plant and animal produce including:
 - MEAT – poultry, fish, pigs and cattle etc.
 - VEGETABLES - fresh, chilled or frozen high-value lines and canned staples
 - CROP GRAINS AND PULSES – flour, pasta, brewing/distilling, food aid products etc.
 - FIBRES AND CROP RESIDUE – cotton (modified irrigation), fibreboard and insulation from stubbles and speciality crops e.g. sisal, hemp etc.
 - BIO FUELS – only when surplus to food requirements

Regards,