

Shay Dougall - Statement to the Senate Inquiry Committee public forum.

Senators and other distinguished members of the Senate Inquiry Committee, Thank you receiving us today.

I draw your attention to THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

“An action should not be taken if the consequences are uncertain and potentially dangerous”

The only benefit from CSG is FOR those against the Bill and the industry itself, every other consequence is damaging, harmful, permanent and at the VERY LEAST uncertain.

I have read most of the arguments against the bill you have received notably from only the Government, Industry and those directly connected to the industry exhorting to you the reasons why the CSG Industry should continue to have unfettered access to my home and the homes of others, the businesses of others; For mainly the reasons

- of the further financial success of the few and foreign
- further enhancing adaptive management practices (or in other words, allowing them to continue to Learn By Doing),
- and the ongoing support of an unsustainable industry - As gas wells deplete (along with our water as a waste product) they have to keep drilling and drilling and drilling and fracking just to keep production at the same pace

I can refer you to just as many arguments that indicate multiple and complex reasons why this should not be the case and I am sure many have in other submission.

However, One very important element is missing from all of those arguments. It is one that cannot be conveyed in black and white tomes or spin and one that I am grateful for the opportunity to share today. And that is the personal recounting of what it is like to be forced to live with this industry.

But I fear that too is inadequate and I implore you to visit us personally and see with your own eyes before you allow this industry and government to make any more decisions on our ‘behalf’, before you make recommendations on this inquiry, that will have repercussions for this generation and every one after that, please let me show you around the front line.

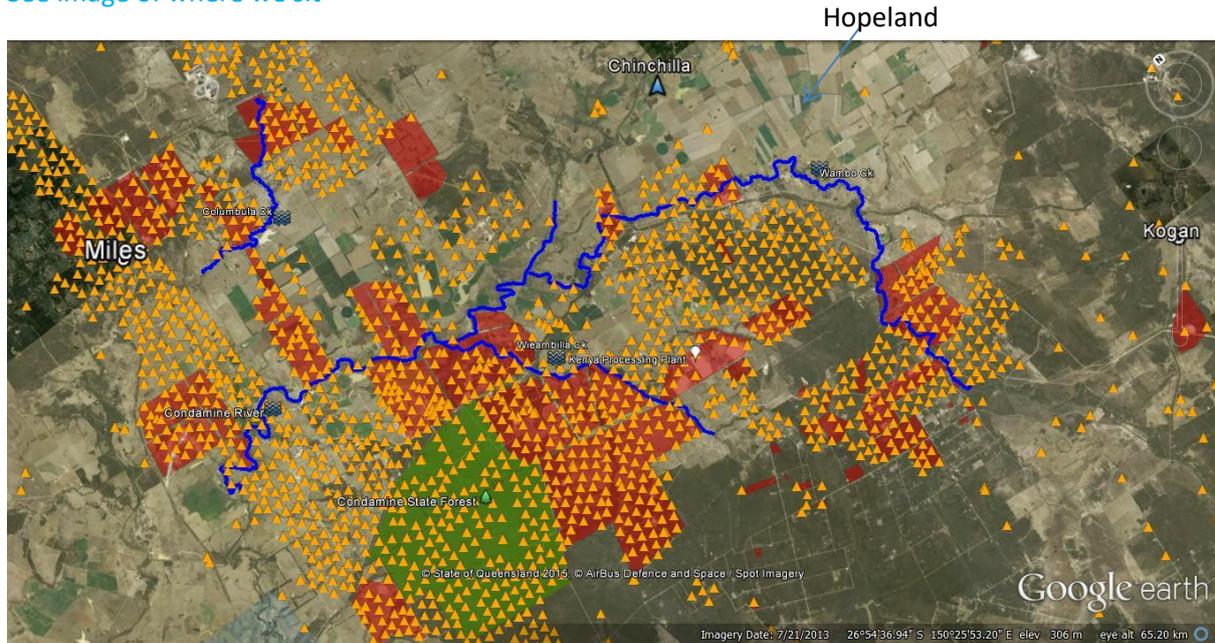
Where I am from is Hopeland,

We live in the middle of 150 Shenhua’s. with about 6000 scattered sq kms now permanently removed from our community and agriculture and owned by the Foreign csg companies.

We get to breath in every day what this industry produces, not to mention the everlasting damage to the very fabric of our community

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See image of where we sit



To what extent is the health of the Western Downs' population, the food chain, animals and the environment affected by the industry's emissions? Where is this reported on in the documents you have received supporting the CSG industry? Where is the baselines to compare these results to?

(From R. Deem)

In 2013/14 people in the Western Downs Region were exposed to 43,551 tonnes of toxic substances released into the air by the industry.

The region's population is approximately 32,800

Groups most at risk from toxic emissions are:

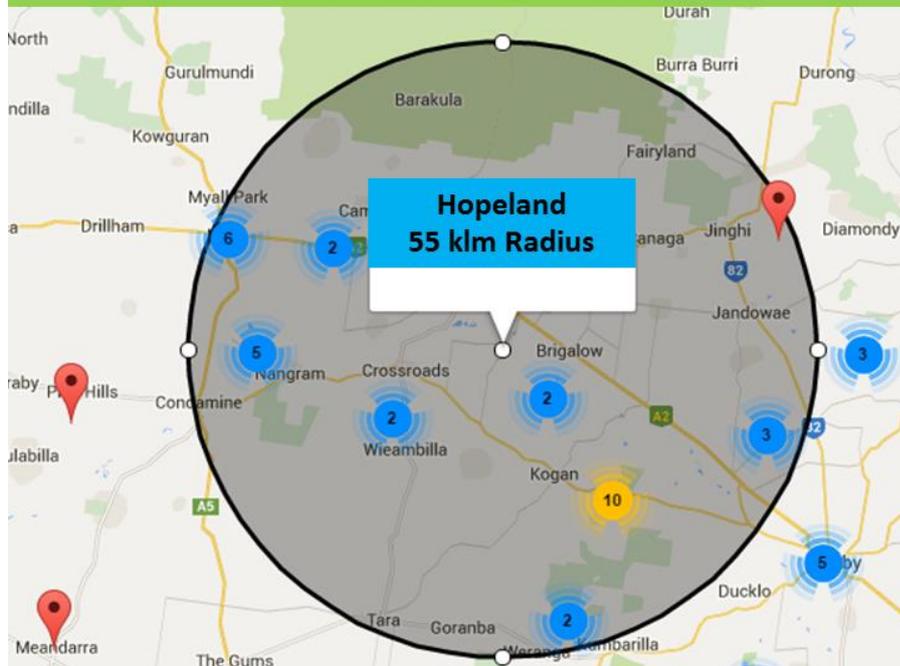
- the young 0-14 years 23%
- older people 65 and over 13.6%
- industry workers
- people with pre-existing lung and other conditions



<http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/reports/pop-housing-profiles-lga/pop-housing-profile-western-downs.pdf>

96% of the Western Downs gas industry's pollutants are emitted within 55 kilometers of Hopeland (image) (roughly the same distance as from CBD to Ipswich).

96% of the Western Downs gas industry's pollutants are emitted within 55 kilometers of Hopeland.



A small selection of these emissions include:

Volatile Organic Compounds Western Downs Region: 748 tonnes 2013/14

VOCs are toxic, some causing cancer in both humans and animals

VOC exposure may result in eye, nose, and throat irritation, headaches, visual disorders, memory impairment, loss of coordination, nausea, damage to liver, kidney, and central nervous system.

Build up of VOCs in indoor environments have been associated with 'sick building syndrome'.

Some VOCs can have serious effects on animals and plants and are a known causative agent of photochemical smog and in liquid form may also impact on water and soil.

<http://www.npi.gov.au/resource/oxides-nitrogen-0>

Formaldehyde Western Downs Region: 140 tonnes 2013/14

Short term adverse effects include watery eyes; burning sensations in the eyes, nose, and throat; coughing; wheezing; nausea; and skin irritation.

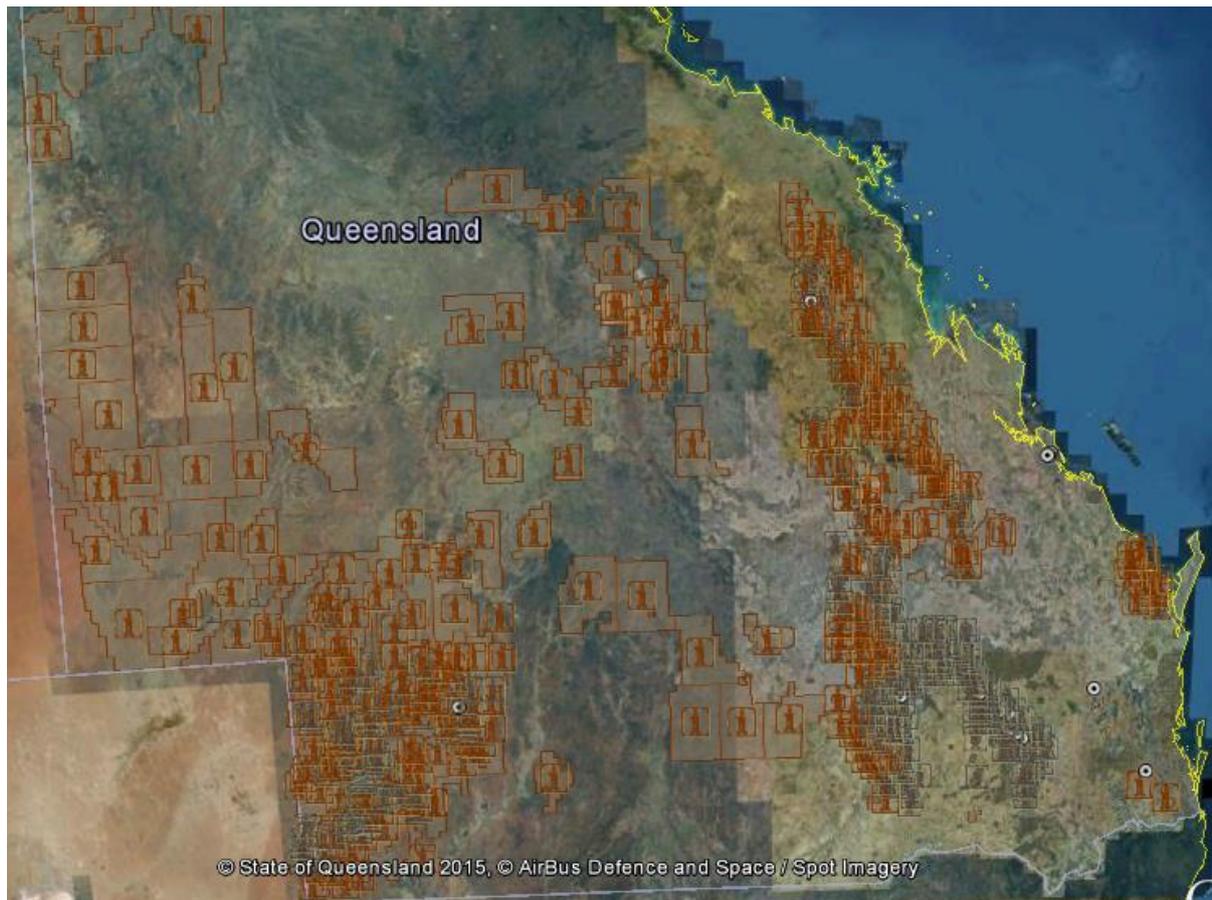
It is a known human carcinogen with typical associations with leukaemia and interference with the production or activity of hormones in the human endocrine system.

<http://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/substances/formaldehyde/formaldehyde-fact-sheet#q4>

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I spend every day and many nights (instead of raising my kids) fighting to maintain a line in the sand that this legislation is all about: of our Hopeland gasfield free Declaration our right to say no, and the financial, emotional and physical wellbeing of my family, my kids because my home will be unlivable and a disastrous financial loss to us because of this industry. And even if we leave, where will we go if this legislation is not passed?

[See image of gas licences](#)



This Bill is Life changing, after years of screaming into pillows, one simple act of upholding human rights in this government will at least level the playing field in this country. If the government will not protect us, our children and our food and water security – then at least give me and my community the right to protect them with the right to refuse Coal and Gas.

This couple (Mr George and Pam Bender) are also from Hopeland and are from 5 generations of people who have been trying to grow food for our nation while this industry indiscriminately removes unimaginable amounts of water from their business and wants to permanently change the way he lives his life and operates his business and to be sure he has no right to reject them.

I will let him describe for you his latest experience of dealing with this industry to 'attempt' to make good on his bore that is no longer viable because of the industry.

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References:

My 7 Page letter to the Premier

My Open Letter re FLIR Camera images

New Solutions volume 22 (1), 51-77. 2012 – Impacts of gas drilling on human and animal health; Michelle Bamberger and Robert E Oswald.

<http://www.ntn.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Symptomatology-of-a-gas-field-An-independent-health-survey-in-the-Tara-rural-residential-estates-and-environs-April-2013.pdf>

Simone Marsh's evidence (in particular the “Fletcher” email)

<http://creeksbend.com/CSG%20Air%20Pollution.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22vSPUW9TD4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydj7VTuy3nU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzMSUufp5ek>

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These images were taken in the gasfield near Narelle, just a few days before coming to the Inquiry to give you a small idea of just what we should have the right to say No to.

