

SUBMISSION FOR SENATE ENQUIRY.SELECT COMMITTEE ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION RELATED TO COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTV AFFAIRS

Presented by Joe, Jennie

Hill “Wandaloo”Columboola.

OUR SUBMISSION IS PRESENTED UNDER SECTION (g)

We have three main points to this submission

1/ The lack of consideration to the protection of the high recharge areas to the GAB in the Surat Basin. Thus allowing the ground water from below the GAB to be drawn down and produced as an excess in CSG production, with the possible potential degradation of this essential groundwater resource to 22% of Australia. A very high risk activity extending far beyond the bounds of gas fields and mining activity, similar areas in other countries have measures in place which control all land use with regard to important recharge zones and other areas within the GAB so the potential catastrophic pressure losses can be avoided. This should have been a major concern far above how to get rid of the excess water and salt.

2/ The case re the signing of vendor declaration for sale of stock. Since 24th of September 2009 we have been asking various government departments, Producer groups and Parliamentarians for clarification of where graziers stand in relation to liability, when signing NVD’s. If a chemical contamination is found in meat. There have been various attempts at answering this question the latest being the MLA funded report which was kept secret for twelve months and then only a summary was released which still gave no clear answer to absolve graziers of any liability (especially those not covered by an entry agreement)but more importantly no protection to the Australian Beef industry.

There have been several cases of contamination associated with chemicals and contaminated water one at Kingaroy and one at Moura that we are aware of.

The integrity of our beef is paramount to the export of our beef to many overseas countries and one slip could put the whole industry at risk.

No resources company is going to be able to compensate the whole Australian Beef industry if this occurs so we feel the phrase co-existence is non existent

3/ The absolute lack of integrity shown by gas companies, EHP staff, members of the Government in the matter of the crossing of Columboola Creek with the main pipeline to Gladstone.

In the initial EA it was proposed that the pipe would cross Columboola Creek by Horizontal Directional Drilling, whilst this crossing is not on our land it is right on our upstream boundary therefore any problems associated with this crossing would affect the water supply for our cattle.

On Monday 15th October 2013 a group of landholders met with [redacted] from EHP at the site of the crossing to discuss what was going to happen as we had noticed clearing on the western side of the creek, which indicated to us that it was not preparation for drilling. [redacted] found the peg on the line with HDD on it and said with the information he had from the EA it was going to be drilled. This was further confirmed by Mr Andrew Connor in a press release of the 18th October 2012 Chinchilla News "This EA was issued based on an Environmental Management Plan prepared by QGC that indicates Columboola Creek will be crossed by drilling under the creek" The department has asked QGC to confirm that the proposed method to cross the creek is by HDD prior to commencement of work. The same article had a statement from QGC that all control plans for crossing the creek had been examined verified and certified by an independent third party and indicated that they were planning to trench the crossing.

A meeting was arranged on the 30th November 2012 with 6 landowners (Joe Hill, [redacted] to meet with [redacted] and [redacted] from EHP on the veranda of "Wandaloo" Columboola our property.

We were assured that no decision had been made as to the method used for the crossing of the creek as they were waiting to see the third party approval. [redacted] asked that as soon as this arrived a copy be sent to Joe Hill they assured [redacted] that would be done.

The following Monday afternoon [redacted] rang to say he had received the paperwork which he had sent to his superior for a decision. Numerous phone requests were made for that information to be provided to us to no avail.

On the 3rd April 2013 received a phone call from [redacted] that QGC were going to trench the creek in 6 weeks. On 22nd April 2013 received a phone call from Andrew Connor that QGC were going to trench the creek because of the cost. I

asked for a copy of the paper work and was told he could not release it, it would have to go to his legal advisors and I would have to apply through freedom of information. Which we did immediately.

Subsequently the creek was trenched and the freedom of information DVD arrived approx. 10 months after the event.

On reading this we were very surprised to note that the environmental study and sign off of the crossing was done by Unidel a contractor for QGC in October 2011 approx. twelve months before our meeting with
and .

We also received a letter from Howard Hobbs MP after representation to him on the matter affirming that it would be drilled.

Following a letter to Hon Andrew Powell MP Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, dated 29th April we received a letter dated 20 May stating that QGC has made the determination that HDD is not practicable at this location and they would proceed with open trenching consistent with the requirements of their environmental authority.

The environmental authority provided scope for coal seam gas companies to choose which methods they will adopt to carry out pipeline construction works.

So we ask, what is the use of any bodies such as EHP if the CSG companies make all the decisions and change the EA's at will without notification to anybody.

Joe and Jennie Hill

NOTE; We have letters, photos and the DVD if required.