

Testimony

Human Rights Impacts of Unconventional Gas Mining

Australian People's Tribunal

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony to the Australian People's Tribunal into the Human Rights Impacts of Unconventional Gas Mining.

I am a cattle breeder from Northern NSW who became aware of the immense threat that Unconventional Gas Mining posed to our region in September, 2011. Prior to then, I'd been 'asleep at the wheel'. My only knowledge of the gas industry arrived via the barrage of Metgasco advertisements appearing in our local media promoting the Coal Seam Gas (CSG) industry as a clean, green, minimal impact form of income for farmers and landholders, a win/win situation. These seemingly benign advertisements tended to depict a warm, amiable relationship between a 'stereotypical Aussie farmer' and a 'Metgasco employee' clad in 'farm' attire. I recall [ignorantly] thinking to myself back then; "Sounds good, farmers can always do with some extra income, not to mention the added 'bonus' of 'drought-proofing' their properties."



“If it seems too good to be true, then it probably is”!

**METGASCO PROMOTIONAL PHOTOGRAPH DEPICTING CATTLE ‘COEXISTING’ WITH
A DRILL RIG. NO MENTION OF POLLUTION RISKS TO BEEF/DAIRY/PRODUCE**

On 21st September 2011, I took time off work to attend the 1st Parliamentary Inquiry into Coal Seam Gas Mining (CSG), held in Alstonville, NSW. The graphic content of what I heard being tabled and discussed via the various speakers left me deeply concerned for the future welfare and health of my family, our environment and our region at large.

Since then, daily angst and a weighty feeling of foreboding have become my 'norm'. I used to be quite a jolly soul; not anymore. The days of being able to drift off to a peaceful slumber are long gone. Since September 2011, my pre & post sleep thoughts have been dominated by gas mining; the accompanying hand-in-glove government corruption/collusion, the shattered lives, police brutality and horrifying environmental devastation that I've witnessed. I now suffer insomnia.

At the Parliamentary Inquiry I learned (among other things) that Stuart George, the son of Thomas George (our local, well connected, long-term State National MP) was employed by Metgasco as a Land and Liaison Officer. (Metgasco was the gas company intent on exploiting & destroying our region at the time.) This role saw him liaising with & grooming local landholders for the purpose of gaining access to their land for gas mining. Being a regional area, many of these landholders were very familiar to both himself and his MP father. Conflictingly, at that very same time, Stuart was also on sitting on the board of Rous Water (our regional supply authority); was a Councillor at the only 'pro-gas' council in our region - Richmond Valley Council; was hoping to be preselected as the Nationals State candidate for 'The Clarence' (an adjoining region also under threat of gas mining), and was President of Casino's annual "Beef Week". All corners were covered (incidentally, during this period, Stuart's used car dealership was in liquidation, owing creditors over \$267,000). Despite growing community outrage at the time, his father Thomas refused to acknowledge these blatant conflicts of interest and as such, his seemingly teflon coated son refused to stand down from the conflicting positions.

<https://m.northernstar.com.au/news/stuart-george-says-he-wont-stand-down-rous-water/1181595/>

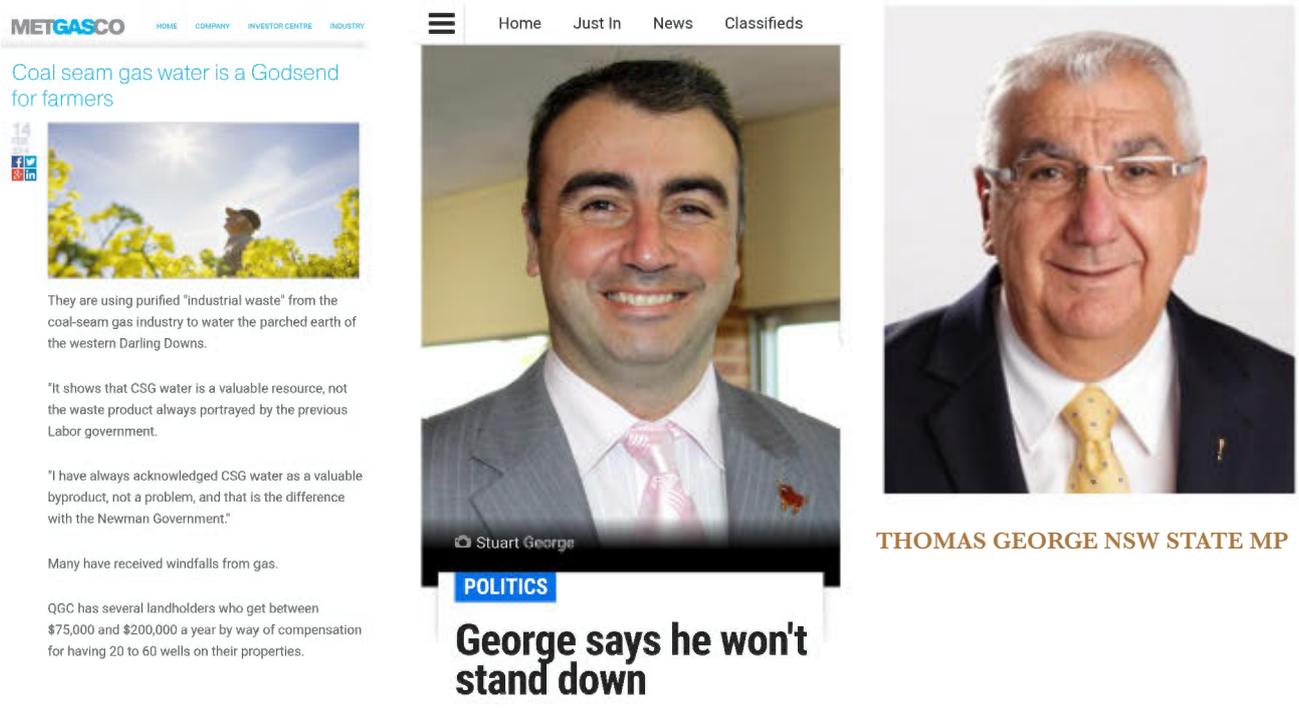
This is just one of 100's of examples available that illustrate the rife, insidious interconnectivity (aka the '**revolving door**') that exists between 'Big Gas', the Government and lobbyists at Local, State & Federal levels. The gas companies also establish ties and 'street cred' with business owners in targeted communities via 'infiltration'. The gas mining companies sponsor and place strategic infiltrators in organisations such as the Local Chamber of Commerce and other such 'groups of influence' - evident at the time in Casino NSW & presently in Chinchilla QLD. This ongoing cycle

leads to further isolation and feelings of hopelessness/despondency/frustration and anger from community members, such as myself.

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/revolving-doors-how-the-fossil-fuel-lobby-has-governments-ensnared/>

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/revealed-revolving-doors-public-servants-fossil-fuel-lobbyists/>

As a community member, I feel powerless and without any independent Government representation. Where do we turn when our 'representative voice' is so clearly compromised?



The image shows a screenshot of a METGASCO website article on the left and a portrait of Stuart George on the right. The article is titled "Coal seam gas water is a Godsend for farmers" and discusses the use of purified industrial waste from the coal-seam gas industry to water parched earth in the western Darling Downs. It includes quotes from Stuart George, a NSW State MP, who acknowledges CSG water as a valuable byproduct but notes the difference in perception between the Newman Government and the previous Labor government. The portrait of Stuart George is a headshot of a man in a suit and tie, smiling. Below the portrait is a caption: "THOMAS GEORGE NSW STATE MP". The article title "George says he won't stand down" is also visible below the portrait.

MISLEADING GAS INDUSTRY ADVERTISING & 'REVOLVING DOORS'

Here is a relatively recent example of collusion, whereby our Federal Minister for Environment and Energy can be seen/heard colluding with NSW State Minister for Energy, Anthony Roberts regarding the controversial, proposed Santos Pilliga/Narrabri Unconventional Gas project:

ROBERTS: *"We'll just back you.....people aren't going to love us, they're going to hate us...."*

FRYDENBERG: *"Well I won't say that in front of the T.V...." {laughing}*

<http://northcoastvoices.blogspot.com.au/2016/08/coal-seam-gas-even-murdoch-media-cant.html>

I have endured 6.5 years (thus far) of angst riddled nights, nights spent researching and compiling information that has confirmed unequivocally to me that the coal seam/unconventional gas industry is nothing short of a gargantuan catastrophe in the making. My fear of this ‘threat to life’ escalates daily as I witness a government working for the oil & gas sector, repeatedly ignoring Australia-wide community pleas, common sense and the mounting scientific and anecdotal evidence that supports an immediate halt to this devastating industry. How many more submissions do we have to write?

The government brands those of us opposed to the unconventional gas industry as sub-human ‘*Eco-Terrorists*’. Regular citizens are demonised and labelled such things as: ‘*extremists*’; ‘*paid protesters*’; ‘*green fascists*’ and worse by our politicians and Murdoch Media. In reality, we are ‘normal’ regular people standing up to protect our land and water, our future in what are most extraordinary circumstances.



ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT, THOSE OF US OPPOSED TO UNCONVENTIONAL GAS MINING ARE ‘EXTREMISTS’ (Weekend Star 2012)

In 2012 I attempted to organise a meeting with my local State MP, only to be told by his secretary that, “he was not willing to discuss CSG with his constituents”. Unbelievable, CSG was singularly the most polarising issue in our region at that time. He was ‘towing the National Mining Party line’.

I found myself participating in the many anti-CSG meetings, rallies, events, blockades, letterbox drops and protests that were occurring throughout our region. Here I met hundreds of like-minded

locals who felt equally outraged & despondent regarding our governments' blatant support of the unconventional gas industry.

- At stake:**
- Our Health (physical and mental)**
 - Our Water (surface and ground)**
 - Our Land**
 - Our Communities**
 - Our Air**
 - Our Property Values**
 - Our Roads & Infrastructure**
 - Our Right to Peaceful Amenity**
 - Our Environment & Ecosystems**
 - Our Future**
 - Our Lives**
 - Our Cultural Heritage**





“PLEASE DON’T DESTROY OUR FUTURE” - ‘I DON’T WANT TO LIVE IN A GASFIELD’.
LOCALS PROTEST OUTSIDE STATE MP DON PAGE’S OFFICE - BALLINA NSW



The gravity of this battle has taken me (as a devoted mother of three) away from my family for regular & extended periods, at great personal expense. My livelihood, my overall health, my family dynamics, our dreams & plans and friendships have all suffered adversely as a consequence of my involvement in fighting this wretched, evil industry.

6.5 years of my life have been stolen from me, never can I have those years back. Important time that ordinarily should have been spent with family; enjoying their birthdays, sporting events, special occasions, graduations, presentation nights, costume parades, involvement in my children's school & watching them grow up, Pony Club, homework, hobbies, friendships, holidays, time to grieve for lost loved ones, tending to my business and property/livestock, voluntary community work etc - sacrificed/stolen in what has turned out to be an ongoing and most insidious battle to protect our land and water from harm. It feels like war. The government versus its people. The balance of scales in this battle is far from even.

I am deeply disillusioned and carry much resentment towards politicians and advocates of the unconventional gas industry for robbing me and countless other decent Australians of this right, and for jeopardising the wellbeing of this precious country, her flora and fauna. Simple pleasures such as 'admiring a stunning vista' for its beauty are no longer possible. Instead, I now envisage such a vista overlaid by dirty, leaking, industrialised, fragmented gas fields; polluted, dewatered, defiled. Depression and feelings of disbelief, knowing that those in power have zero appreciation, understanding, care or respect for the ecology and the circle of life needed to sustain us. The unconventional gas industry is brutal. It is cruel, ugly, nonsensical, insatiable and relentless. It IS a ponzi scam.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/aussies-oppose-fracking-but-govt-wants-it>

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/the-tale-of-santos-coal-seam-gas-and-the-disappearing-2-billion/>

In 2012, Lismore City Council conducted a plebiscite. Voters were asked to respond to the following question:

“Do you support coal seam gas (CSG) exploration and production in the Lismore City Council area?”

Over 15,000 votes were counted and results showed a resounding **88.07%** were against. Despite this overwhelming result, Metgasco and the NSW Liberal/National State Government remained intent on forcing the industry upon our region.

Surveys by residents all over Australia have been carried out and there are now hundreds and hundreds of communities across this country that have declared themselves and their roads 'Gas Field Free'. These declarations are not 'petitions', but rather individual communities '***declarations of intent to defend themselves from such an invasive, reckless industry***'.

<http://csgfreenorthernrivers.org/about-the-csg-free-campaign/>

Below links show footage from just two of the many local community Gas Field Free declaration celebrations held throughout our local region, across all LGAs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Bvx-0DyNsw>

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=OnHv1wH6WKQ&desktop_uri=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DOnHv1wH6WKQ)

[v=OnHv1wH6WKQ&desktop_uri=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DOnHv1wH6WKQ](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=OnHv1wH6WKQ&desktop_uri=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DOnHv1wH6WKQ)



I've spent much time travelling to Queensland's Western Darling Downs on 'fact finding missions'. I wanted to see for myself what the gas industry in full swing actually looked like; to speak with landholders and shopkeepers and hear of their experiences - both positive and negative. I sought a realistic 'on the ground' perspective. I hoped to have my fears regarding the gas industry allayed. Sadly, this was not the case. In all my travels, I did not encounter one single positive story or experience regarding the gas industry's impact upon people's lives. Not one.

What I did find and witness, was a well funded, militant, arrogant, brazen, calculating industry running roughshod over the top of a very conservative, polite, trusting, somewhat religious, frightened and completely unprepared rural community.

Trophy farmers (or '*carrot dangles*') are picked out by industry and groomed early on to peddle the interests of the gas companies and to sell and 'showcase' the myth of coexistence to landholders and the general public. Trophy farmers (often well known farmers from the targeted region) are courted and paid handsomely, with family members sometimes offered employment opportunities with the gas companies. This is not the case for the many other people who are later hoodwinked into signing up without being made specifically aware of ALL aspects of what exactly they are signing up for. I have been told reliably, of instances of unwitting QLD landholders in the earlier days (2005/07) agreeing to have a coal seam gas well drilled on their property for so little as a carton of beer. Some contracts were not offered or signed until after drilling (as in the Nothdurft family's case). The gas companies play on people's vulnerabilities and financial situations. One gent kept QGC off his beloved property for some 10 years, they learned that he was short of funds to assist his elderly parents with aged care, and they pounced. He is now bound by a contract that he signed under financial duress. Whilst scouting on his property, he showed QGC one of the resident koalas. He asked if they could document it, QGC chose NOT to photograph & note its presence.

Rugby League is a very popular sport in rural Queensland. True to machiavellian form, multinational QLD gas companies like to wheel professional football players around to various community/school events in a bid to 'win them over'. QGC contracted a well known former QLD NRL (National Rugby League) player as a 'Land and Liaison officer'; such 'idols' are revered in these parts and are used as gas pimps (in my opinion). This particular former player offered one football loving, highly impacted landholder a framed, signed jersey as a kind of 'sweetener'.

Another common grooming tactic used by the gas companies is for the Land and Liaison Officers to turn up to meet landholders armed with cakes, sandwiches, smiles & a sympathetic ear (buttering

them up) - 'actors'. These gas workers pretend to 'really care' about the landholder and their individual situations. Unfortunately, once the signature is inked, the 'mask slips' and the nightmare begins. I've seen it many times. The industry cannot advance without landholders signing on the dotted line; effectively signing their life away to these invasive, calculating, misleading multinationals.

PHOTOGRAPH FROM QGC SHELL SITE DEPICTING HARMONIOUS QGC /LANDHOLDER RELATIONSHIP



Some of these landholders are vulnerable, isolated and don't have much contact with outsiders; some are lonely; some are naive and trusting; unworldly; some have suffered one too many hardships from 'life on the land'. These are normal decent people that for whom the threat of being taken to land court by the gas companies, sees them as easy 'prey' Damned if they do, damned if they don't. Other landholders have simply refused to engage with the gas companies. To this day, as far as I'm aware, not one resistant landholder has been taken to court by the gas companies to gain access. They are known by industry as, 'hostile landholders'.

It is common knowledge that individual landholders are profiled by the gas companies. Personalities/financial situations and family situations are all analysed and the 'appropriate' snake-oil salesman (Land and Liaison officer) is deployed to 'do them over'.

If there is no 'success' with a particular officer, an alternative approach in signing them up is hatched, often involving intimidation, bullying, isolation and fear (eg. threat of court proceedings). Too often I have been told by landholders, that the gas companies have threatened them and, 'if they don't sign up, they will be taken to court and the gas companies will be granted access anyway'. The pressure put on these landholders is immense, David versus Goliath. The gas companies pit neighbour against neighbour, sometimes indicating/lying to a fence-sitter that their neighbour has signed up (whether it be true or not), in an effort to break their spirit and coerce them into signing. The tactics employed are calculating, unscrupulous and underhand. It is blatantly a divide and

conquer technique that has been successful in QLD, attributable to the unbridled support by the government and the supposedly independent (but in reality) industry/government arm named 'The Gasfields Commission. The Gasfields Commission board comprises of many past and present gas industry executives including the former head of APPEA, Mr Rick Wilkinson. Bias is obvious. The gas companies; The 'Gasfield Commission' and the QLD Government are one and the same.

In my time spent in the Queensland gas fields, I desperately hoped to see that the industry and its impacts were as clean and green as we are constantly told, I hoped to conclude that things were 'ok'. **Things are far from 'ok'.**

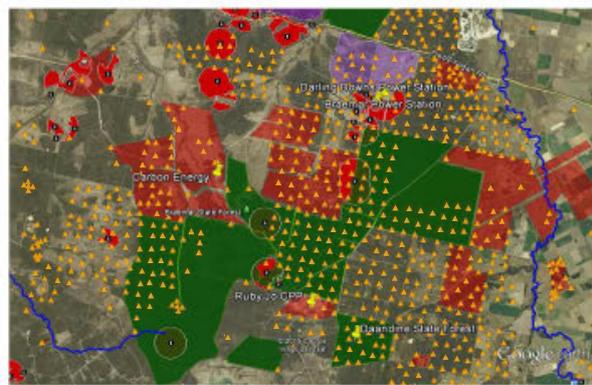
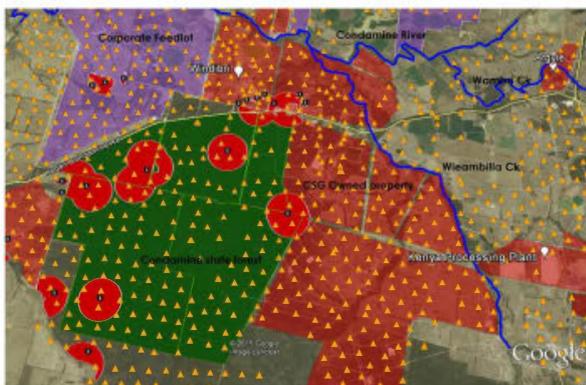
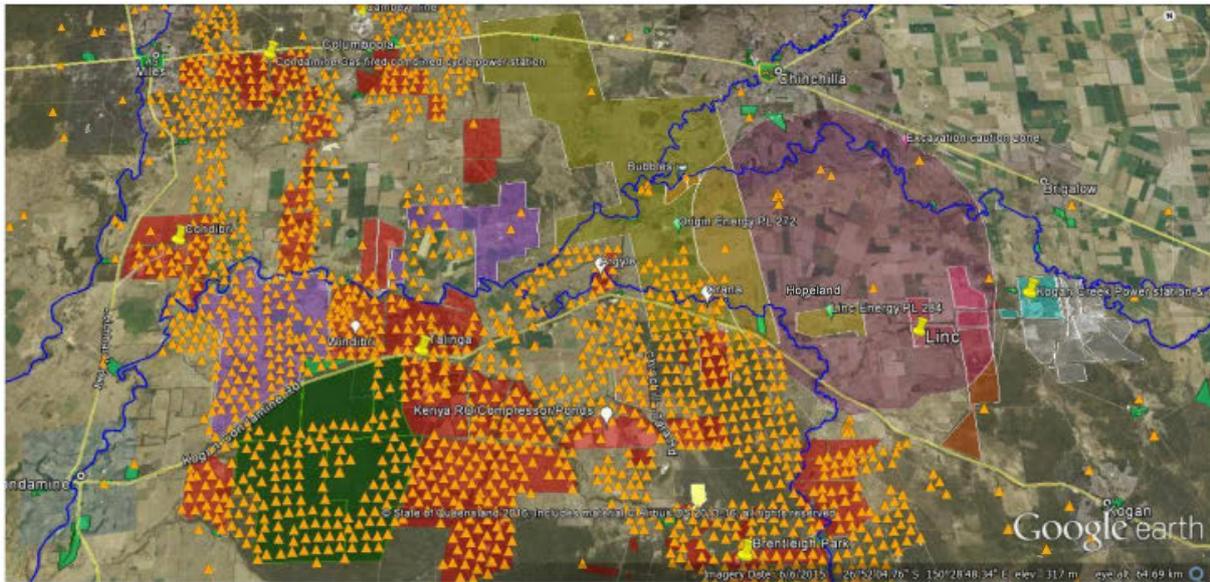
Most people aren't aware that this 'industry' was largely born in our State Forests and has spread outwards like a malignant tumour. Despite being home to a huge range of threatened and vulnerable flora and fauna species, the government has virtually gifted these State Forests to be fragmented & desecrated in what is essentially an industrial experiment; a land grab of sorts; an invasion by tax evading, multinational petroleum companies. Vast swathes of our forests have been (and are being) clear felled in a grid pattern, with scrub piled up for kilometre after kilometre alongside the forest roads creating huge, impenetrable walls of fire fuel - fire fighting hazards and inhibiting escape routes for fauna. The backfill that covers the myriad of pipelines is not compacted, which means that fire fighting trucks are unable to traverse them, creating huge bush fire and fire fighting issues. Countless examples of subsidence are visible throughout the gasfields. Threatened flora and fauna are collateral damage, their lives seemingly worthless.





SUBSIDENCE ON GAS PIPELINE IN OLD STATE FOREST





GOOGLE EARTH IMAGERY SHOWING SOME OF THE AREAS IN QLD TAKEN OVER BY CSG

RED SHADING = CSG industry owned property

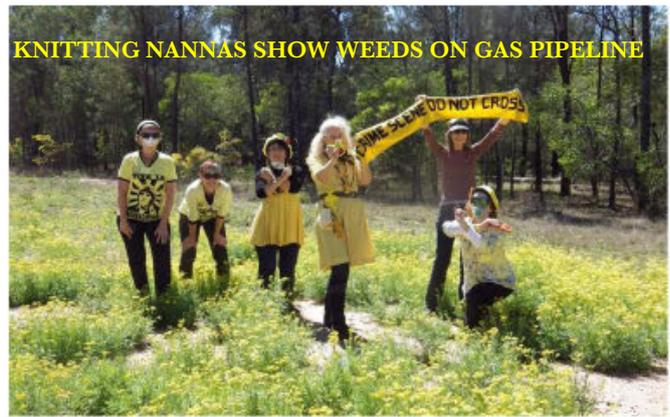
RED CIRCLE WITH 'E' = Essential Habitat

BRIGHT GREEN = State Forest

YELLOW TRIANGLES = CSG Wells

Biosecurity breaches are rampant and occur without consequence, particularly in State Forests where things go largely unreported. **(There should be 'DOB IN A DUMPER' billboards listing an email address and phone number throughout the gas fields encouraging witnesses to report such things.)** Noxious weed infestation and introduced grasses are evident and abundant in cleared areas, around well pads and along the myriad of pipeline routes and infrastructure, spread by gas co./contractors in unclean vehicles, spreading weeds and seeds from site to site, farm to farm. Here's one such example:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-23/farmer-claims-csg-companies-spread-weeds-on-southern-qld-propert/5661016>



As landholders, we cannot legally clear our land without permission from council or government, yet the multinational gas companies have virtual free reign. Clearing legislation and environmental ramifications do not appear applicable to them. It is deeply distressing to see first hand the hundreds & hundreds of kilometres & acres of clearing that has taken place thus far, let alone the displaced fauna. NO baseline studies were conducted, no real long-term impact studies conducted.

Our State Forests and the semi remote location of QLD's Western Downs affords the gas companies and their contractors a very private(albeit illegal) location for them to dump their waste, cost free, away from prying eyes. And dump it they do. I have seen this happening on numerous occasions, (even on bitumen and polymer coated roads) under the guise of 'dust suppression'. This untreated water and brine finds its way into local dams and waterways. Wildlife and stock then drink this water. The huge amounts of dust from these roads (exacerbated by the massive increase in industry traffic) inevitably settles on rooftops and ends up in household rainwater tanks, waterways and the lungs of residents. With no health monitoring in place, no tracking of impacted residents, the consequences remain hidden. Government don't test for radionuclides and many gas related compounds.



WATER DUMPING IN QUEENSLAND GAS FIELDS





I have witnessed thirsty native bees drinking untreated, produced coal seam gas water (water that contains high amounts of salts, heavy metals and naturally occurring radioactive material) from leaking high point vents. I have seen dead echidnas, birds frogs and insects in close proximity to infrastructure. I have observed the lacklustre coats, plumage and unusually sluggish movements of wallabies, kangaroos and birds in the gas fields. Seeing the reckless, inhumane environmental toll that has occurred (is occurring) upsets me greatly.



THIRSTY BEES DRINKING UNTREATED COAL SEAM GAS WATER FROM A HIGH POINT VENT

I have found it deeply distressing to see this mass slaughter/displacement of native animals and insects, it haunts me. This land is home to these creatures, they have no say in whether their habitat is destroyed by these multinational gas companies. Where do they go? In one area (recognised as koala habitat), QGC are allowed to clear because they will 'offset' the ecocide via a bush block hundreds of kilometres away. That is of no help whatsoever to the koalas that are earmarked to be wiped out. It is unbearable to helplessly watch this senseless vandalism occur.

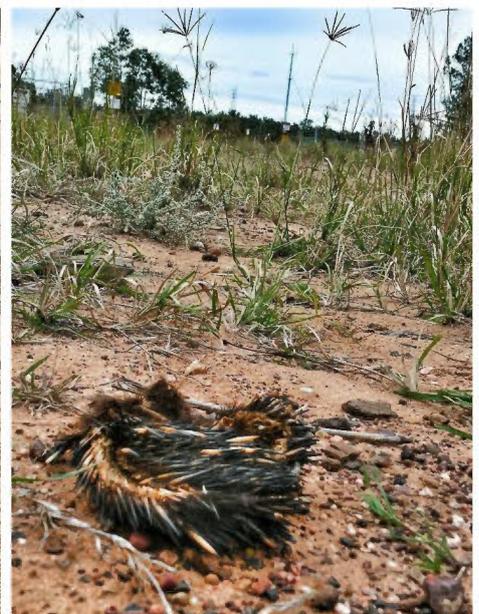
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-27/qgc-given-approval-clear-koala-habitat-csg-western-downs/8390084>

Mixed in with the roadkill throughout the gas fields is huge amounts of litter, mainly flavoured milk & energy drink containers tossed from vehicles driven by FIFO gas workers and contractors, it is disgusting.

Never before had I seen dead crows on or near the road. They were predominantly around QGC's Ruby Jo gas hub at Kumbarilla, all the way up around Chinchilla Tara Rd. I didn't witness dead crows on every occasion, but did note that this 'phenomena' seemed to coincide with big flaring events from the Arrow Daandine and nearby QGC Ruby Jo fields. I have also seen other dead birds of various breeds, randomly on the ground in the gas fields.



DEAD CROWS ON OR NEAR ROADSIDE AND IN FOREST - QLD GAS FIELDS



RUBBISH DISCARDED AT PIPELINE WORKS DEAD ECHIDNA QGC ARGYLE GPF



LITTER DISCARDED BY GAS WORKERS & CONTRACTORS LINES GAS FIELD ROADS

During the peak of the initial construction phase, QLD's Chinchilla & surrounds felt like a 'war zone' to me. Overwhelming amounts of mining vehicular movements and convoys, security guards, buses and countless high visibility uniformed FIFO (fly-in-fly-out) workers engulfed the town. To quote one local gent during this period, *"no one waves to anyone anymore. The streets in town may be lined with vehicles, but you could fire a rifle down the footpath and not hit a soul. I've seen our community divided and already too many lives been destroyed"*.

I spoke to a very distressed long-term local shopkeeper who was owed over \$200,000 by QGC. Despite repeated requests for payment, the bill had been accruing, unpaid for 2 years. She was terrified that she would lose her business. I spoke to another local who ran a popular after school recreational facility, she was devastated at the prospect of closing down because QGC had bought the premises and weren't willing to renew her lease unless she was willing to pay the inflated, unaffordable 'mining boom' rate. This woman had been operating there for 25 years, providing a valuable service to local children. I spoke with a shopkeeper who spoke despondently of 'cashed up mining workers' coming into her shop looking to buy protein powder, speaking down to her as though she was a 'dumb country hick', telling her that 'they could buy the same protein powder \$3 cheaper on the internet, delivered to their door', before leaving the shop empty-handed. During this particular conversation, a gas driller's wife entered the shop seeking something to help her husband, who she said, 'was a driller and was bleeding from his ears and nose regularly after work'. The shopkeeper told me that locals are too scared to speak out against the gas industry for fear of retribution, that they felt like a minority in their own, once friendly town.

On one occasion, I was having a beverage with a friend at one of the local pubs where I was approached by a very drunk British man who offered to buy me a drink. Curious, I asked him if he lived in Chinchilla, to which he replied in a slurred voice, “***Fuck no, I would never live in this shit hole, you’ve got to be joking. I live in Pattaya [Thailand]. I’m not a bogan loser, I’m here to make money. Big money***”. I asked who he worked for, he paused before saying, “*I work for QGC*”. It upset me hearing the vulgar way in which he spoke about the Western Downs and her people with such disdain and contempt, but then again - from where I sit, looking at the literal trail of debris, I guess he simply summed up the sentiment of the industry’s overall viewpoint. They couldn’t care less for the environment or the community, they are there to get what they want. Why wouldn’t they, the government has given them permission and rolled out the red carpet. On another occasion I was confronted by a drug influenced prostitute who was worried that I was ‘on her turf’. Prostitution has increased since gas and FIFO workers came to town’. Sadly, the Chinchilla of ten years ago was a vastly different place.

<https://www.dalbyherald.com.au/news/sex-trade-booms-surat-basin/1598375/>

The golden egg heralded by politicians and the gas industry shills is ‘jobs and growth for local businesses and landholders’, this is clearly short-lived and largely untrue. The touted real estate ‘boom’ that accompanied the construction phase is another example of the false promises made by this industry. In an incredibly short period of time, real estate did ‘boom’, but the ‘boom’ was equally short-lived. Vacancy rates are at an all-time high, property prices have plummeted and many investors are left with a mortgage worth more than their property value. Such is the vacancy problem that the government has been relocating public housing tenants from Brisbane to the area with a reported \$6000 relocation bonus. Some landlords are offering a few weeks free rent, or fully furnished properties at incredibly low rates. We were told that the all the gas industry FIFO’s would settle in the town, but instead, they are housed in serviced dongas, in ‘man camps’ with bars, meals and facilities provided on site, outside of town. The socio-demographics of this once quiet country town have changed dramatically. Drugs and theft have become an issue. It is a community divided.

In 2017, a mortgage broker told me ‘*off the record*’ (incidentally lots of people seem willing to speak ‘*off the record*’) that Chinchilla & surrounds had a ‘grey area’ over it when it came to lending. Lenders apparently have a ‘postcode book’ which is updated regularly to advise lenders of ‘no go zones’. At the time, Chinchilla’s postcode had an ‘X’ next to it which meant, ‘be wary when lending’ or words to that effect. He also said that there was apprehension and ‘issues’ re. lending in other mining towns.

<http://www.news.com.au/finance/business/mining/miles-the-coal-seam-ghost-town/news-story/3923c38654f0ab9e3e4ed703d1de2d52>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/sep/30/commonwealth-bank-coal-seam-gas-makes-property-unacceptable-as-loan-security>

And on it goes. I spoke with a Chinchilla farmer who locked the gas company off his property after being repeatedly lied to regarding the activities being conducted on his land. He was fed up with his farm gates being left open by Powerlink and the gas company workers; he'd had introduced weeds (biosecurity hazard) brought onto his farm via the gas companies not having had their vehicles properly washed down. He cited instances of workers defecating and leaving toilet paper on his property. He was at his wit's end with their threats and bullying, he mentioned that he'd had suicidal thoughts and thankfully had sought help in dealing with them. The gas company has since bought his farm. This is one of too many similar instances that I know of. So many farms have been bought out by these companies or their 'stooges'.

Over the years I have become acquainted with many impacted residents, some of whom have become my friends. To witness an otherwise healthy young child living in the heart of the gas fields, having a seizure at 2.30am; his mother crying helplessly as she holds him in her arms is not something I can forget. This was not an isolated incident, they live on a large property, surrounded by gas infrastructure - flares, pipelines, compressor stations, wells, vents, processing facilities etc. The inversion layer seems to hold the pollution down over the landscape, the cooler months seem to be the worst. As a mother, I empathise and would not wish this upon anyone. I have witnessed too many tears from distraught gas field mothers living day to day, watching their children play happily one moment, then next moment, the child can drop to the ground overcome with a crippling migraine, sometimes blacking out, or the onset of sudden blood noses. It is harrowing and deeply distressing. I've seen children bathe in the water from their household rainwater tanks covered head to toe in blotchy red rashes, post bath. NEGLIGENCE. There is no investigation into the exposure of these residents to the countless gas field pollutants. This paper explains how inadequate the monitoring of health issues re CSG has been:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14615517.2017.1364025?journalCode=tiap20>

In support of these impacted families, I try to remain stoic whilst visiting, but then fall in a heap when I come home. How can I sleep peacefully or be happy knowing that these people are living at

what I call, Ground Zero? Their once quiet, rural landscape has been fragmented, polluted and industrialised. It is deeply distressing. There is literally no medical support or rigorous investigation into the possible co-relation of gas field residents many symptoms and the fact that they are living within a gas factory. The rollout of this 'industry' has been largely experimental. Humans should not be living in petroleum refineries. What will be the bioaccumulative impacts of residential exposure?

Each time I visit the gas fields, my eyes experience an intense dull ache and my lips become unusually dry. I personally know children who bash their heads against the wall, or slap their own heads repeatedly in a bid to stop the ringing in their heads. I believe the ringing may stem from low frequency noise. I know of men, women and children living in the gas fields who are suddenly, randomly overcome with a blood nose, the blood pouring out like a tap. One lady who lives near a QGC facility called 'Brentleigh Park' often wakes up to a blood soaked pillow, she says to me, 'they must have been flaring again last night'. Some mornings her legs 'won't work' and she struggles to get out of bed. Headaches, eye conditions, auto immune diseases, sinus, blood noses, sleep deprivation, nausea, metallic taste, memory loss, fear, mood swings, despair, depression and anger are all things that I've personally witnessed among residents whilst staying up there. It is harrowing to say the least.

On one occasion, I was standing adjacent to a high point vent at a farmer's house, within 30 seconds, my face became covered in these strange red blotches and I felt clammy, dizzy and nauseous like I was going to pass out; incidentally, the air spewing from the vent has since been tested and results showed that it contained toluene and other gases coming straight off the water line. The same thing happened near a QGC gas processing facility at Beelbee. As I disembarked from my car to check a tyre, I smelled a strange chemical odour - within minutes, I felt nauseous, my eyeballs ached (felt like they were going to explode) & the whites became red, my face felt flushed and I developed a dreadful thumping headache. It disappeared about half an hour - 45 minutes later. 'Coincidentally' there was a huge flare burning nearby at the time.

The impacted landholders who I've stayed with and/or visited all share remarkably similar experiences in their dealings with the gas companies. They feel that their land is no longer their own. They speak with contempt about the gas companies that have invaded and upturned their lives. The picture they were 'sold' by the Land and Liaison officers is not remotely what they envisaged or signed up for. More often than not, landholders are under the false assumption that a quiet, eco-friendly gas well is going in, they are not made completely aware that each well is linked

by pipelines and vents and risers and drains which can and DO leak and emit methane, btex and other associated gases. Their land and region is now gridded with roads leading to fenced 1.4 hectare gas well pads and low point drains leaking condensate, high point vents belching methane, btex & VOC's, pipelines, risers & littered with 'Danger - Hazardous Area' signs everywhere. These hazardous obstacles make land logistically difficult to farm. Subsidence and extensive earthworks and clearing leads to overland flow issues. Residents do not feel safe letting their children explore their rural properties any more, a regular flow of industry vehicles now enter and exit their properties, the criminal history of these visitors is unknown to residents. There are many accounts of theft on these rural properties, this was not an issue pre-gas. Many people I've met feel fearful and uneasy. They are not comfortable on their own land any more. The noise from the surrounding infrastructure at different times is enough to drive one insane. A feeling of being generally unwell is a constant theme. These people are merely existing, not living. It is very disturbing to witness.

I have been repeatedly told the same story by residents from all over the gas fields; that the Doctors in town and at the hospital refuse to look at a possible correlation between the gas industry and any of their symptoms, this, despite the fact that they are living in a gas field pumping tonnes and tonnes of btex, formaldehyde, radionuclides, VOCs and oxygen scavengers etc into the atmosphere that surrounds their homes.

John Jenkyn, a resident living at the epicentre of the Western Down's gas fields asked the Director of the QLD Darling Downs Public Health Unit 'if she thought it a safe environment for his family to live', this was her response, despite him living just 2.5 km from QGC's ENORMOUS Kenya facility, releasing high levels of gas industry related pollutants into the atmosphere:

Impacted QLD Gasfield resident John Jenkyn

Q: Penny, do you consider this a safe environment for my family?

A: Based on the information you have provided, I would have to conclude that apart from safety issues related to increased road traffic, the safety to your family would be similar to what it was when you first moved to the area in 2005. via email – Dr Penny Hutchinson, Director, Darling Downs Public Health Unit

ARE GASFIELD RESIDENTS FACING A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS DENIED BY THE GOVERNMENT?

Like John Jenkyn, another family that I stay with live virtually next door to the enormous QGC Kenya facility. The noise at night is unbearable. Add to this is the fact that they are surrounded by hundreds of gas wells, compressor stations, flares, vents and hundreds of hectares of evaporation ponds. These people are being exposed to industrial chemicals and gases 24/7. Their life whilst 'living' in the gas field has been hell. Their children are often unwell. Headaches, lethargy, debilitating migraines, blood noses and randomly collapsing. It is a truly unjust, cruel, inhumane situation. Another instance of a loving mother watching her children being poisoned before her very eyes. Their 'compensation' for such, is \$265 incl.gst per gas well per annum, not quite the remuneration of the 'Trophy Farmers'. They have 7 wells and rue the day that they were hoodwinked into signing up back in 2005. They had no idea what lay ahead and feel like prisoners on their own land. Like many others, they have lost faith in the local GP's. When presenting at the hospital with sick children, they are basically given a Panadol and told to go home.

Here is a video that was made using a FLIR (forward looking infrared camera), revealing emissions coming from some of the unconventional gas infrastructure around this family's home.

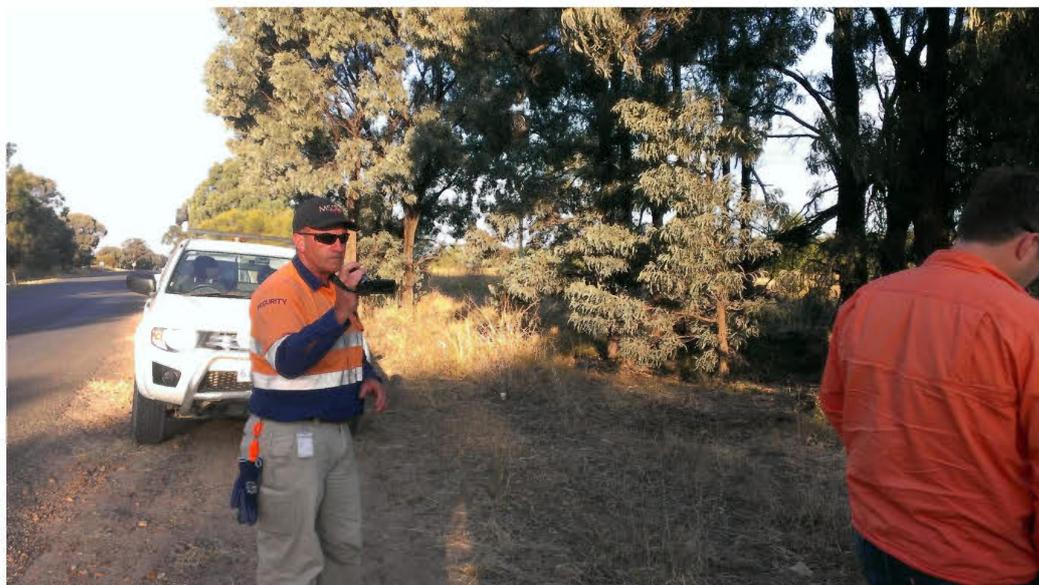
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydj7VTuy3nU>

This is why I fight. I've experienced this hell first-hand and I believe that it is an environment unfit for human or animal. It is not a contained 'industry', it is malignant. Statistics on gas production are **highly underestimated** - and as such, the industry constantly requires more and more land on which to drill to keep their **ponzi scam** rolling. It is a Frankenstein-like experiment that jeopardises our ground and surface waters, our springs, our health, our communities, environment and our soils - without these in good order, we are quite frankly, stuffed.

It is my experience that the people living in the QLD Unconventional Gas/Coal Seam Gas fields are collateral damage/guinea pigs/crash-test dummies. Repeated calls for 24/7 x 365 days per year **comprehensive** air testing have fallen upon deaf ears. The industry/government collaborative (GISERA) air testing of late is woefully inadequate, and dare I say compromised. I've personally enquired about air testing for residents and was told by some laboratories that they would '*love to be able to help*' but were unable, due to a '*conflict of interest*' ie. they were already contracted to the gas industry. These very same laboratories also told me, '*off the record*' that '**those people should not be living there**'. One scientist went so far as to say (upon learning of the location of one impacted family), '**they need to go NOW... NOW**'. All well and good, but where to? Some residents have 'upped and left' - walked away. Others feel trapped, they are unable to sell their properties and

don't know where to turn. The gas industry has stitched up/poached so many scientists and former government bureaucrats (Revolving Doors). Public service staff numbers required to oversee this expansive, messy gamble have been slashed. Industry largely self regulates and constantly asks for amendments to their Environmental Authorities - seeking further loosening of the already slack 'red tape'. They want to dump drill muds & release condensate on site, dump waste water in creeks etc.

Whilst up there, I've been followed, filmed, stalked and harassed by male security guards on public roads and in State Forests. As a female (or anyone really) this made me feel violated. We should be able to traverse public roads without being harassed by creepy, men. On one occasion I was stalked for over 20km, eventually the security guard pulled over and went back the other way. This. threatening behaviour is unacceptable.



STALKED AND FILMED BY A QGC SECURITY GUARD WHO REFUSED TO REVEAL THEIR IDENTITY TO ME OR MY COMPANION WHILST FIXING A TYRE ON A PUBLIC ROAD IN QLD

Night-time skies are often unnaturally illuminated by the many flares at the various gas facilities throughout the region. The hellish glow can be seen from up to 40km away. From a distance, one could be mistaken for thinking that a massive bushfire is ablaze. Under the cloak of (what should be) darkness, while families sleep, they pollutants belch into the atmosphere and over the surrounding landscape - unmonitored, without permission or knowledge of residents, unregulated and unmonitored by government. To me this is a form of trespass, uninvited noise and pollution?

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/orange-light-in-the-sky-over-chinchilla-explained/3154351/>

ORIGIN HORIZONTAL FLARE VISIBLE FROM OVER 30KM, MILES AIRPORT QLD



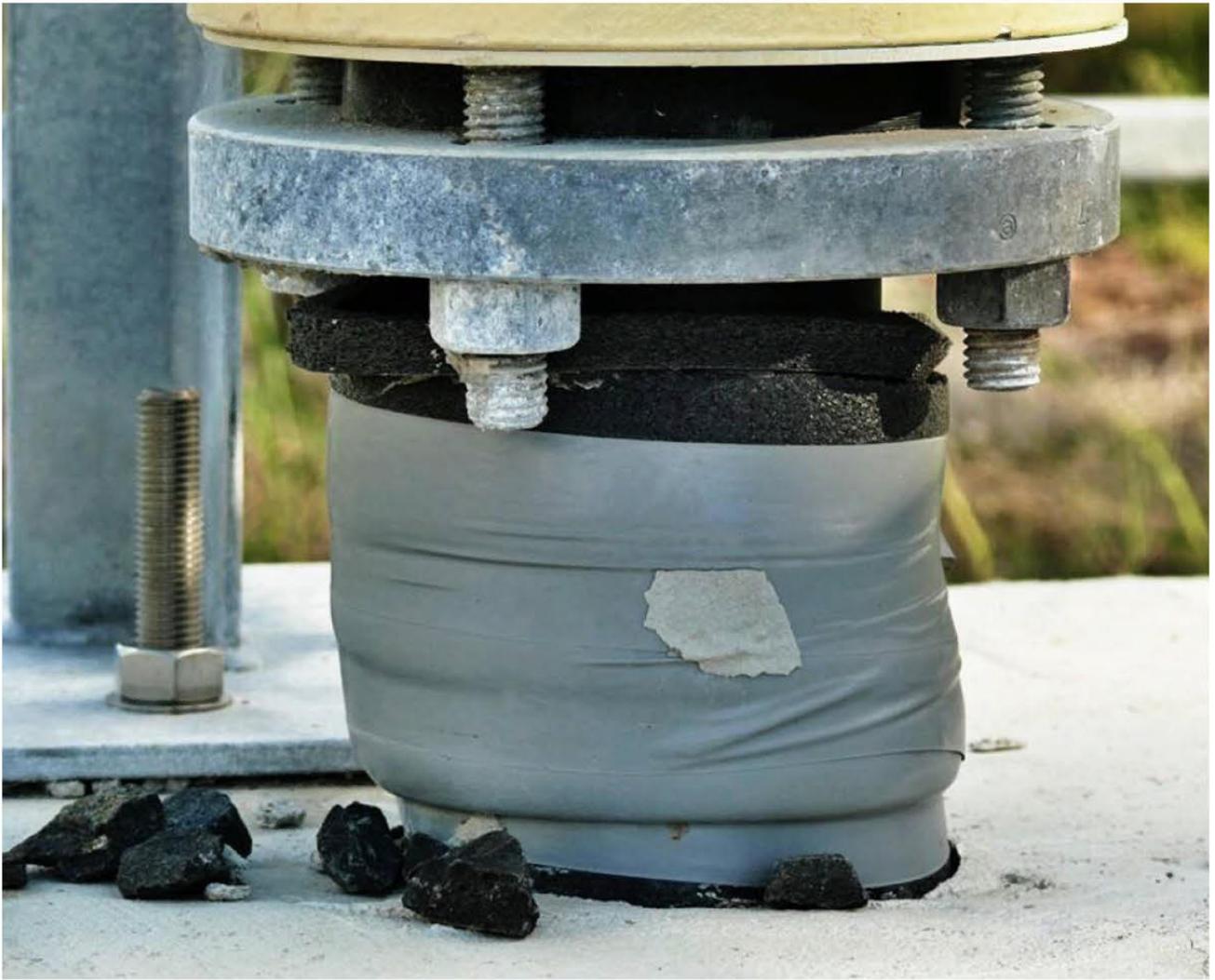
BLOOD RED SKY WIEAMBILLA QUEENSLAND COURTESY QGC FLARING



Following are some images of visibly leaking infrastructure, or infrastructure lacking 'integrity' in the Queensland gas fields. A gas detector or FLIR (forward looking infrared camera) would highlight the many other leaks:









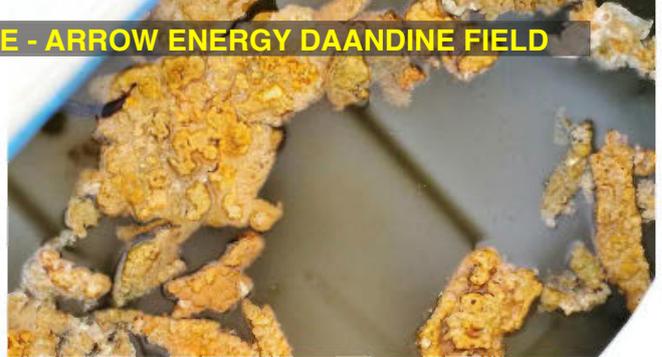
IMAGES OF LEAKING AND / OR SUBSTANDARD INFRASTRUCTURE







CUBE COLLECTING FLUID OFF GAS LINE - ARROW ENERGY DAANDINE FIELD



CHINCHILLA WEIR SPILLWAY. CSG WATER IS ADDED UPSTREAM



HERE IS A PILE OF DISCARDED POND LINERS, PIPES AND OFFCUTS DUMPED IN THE BUSH - QLD GAS FIELDS:

QGC ORANA 3 BRINE POND LEAKING AND WITH INTEGRITY ISSUES - APRIL 2015
QGC FAILED TO REPORT LEAK TO QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT UNTIL 28 APRIL 2016



WHERE DID THE 1040 MEGALITRES OF BRINE DISAPPEAR TO?



QGC ORANA 3 (EVIDENCE OF BRINE LEAK ADJACENT TO THE ORANA 3 EVAPORATION POND)
RESIDENTS WERE NOT NOTIFIED OF BRINE LEAK. INDEPENDENT SOIL/WATER TESTING HAS
NOT BEEN CONDUCTED TO VERIFY HOW BROAD AN AREA MAY BE CONTAMINATED.





In my opinion, there should be rigorous long term testing to see what (if any) contamination has been caused by this disaster.

I have watched the residents of the nearby prime agricultural area of Hopeland, lose water bore after water bore as the gas industry dewateres and their farm bores gasp their final breath. This is not only devastating to witness, but highly hazardous. At least 12 bores in this area alone were lost in a 12-18 month period (2015/16). What is a farm without water? What is life without water? Bores are being lost to gas more rapidly than predicted by 'the experts'. The ramifications of unbridled water extraction for gas mining will be catastrophic for future Australians. We reside on the driest inhabited continent on earth yet the gas companies are allowed to dewater the coal seams and in turn, steal our precious groundwater, compromising our springs, aquifers, creeks and rivers. The cost of this senseless act will be worn by future generations. Landholders whose bores are destroyed are paid 'compensation' by the gas companies. No monetary figure compensates for permanent loss of water.



1: The top photograph is taken from the Bender's boundary (Chinta) looking at Origin Energy, drilling a coal seam gas well on the neighbouring property. I will never forget seeing George Bender glare sadly at the rig, and how awful it felt to see it looming on their boundary, in full vision of the Benders as they worked their land.

2 & 3: The bottom two photographs are of one of the Bender family's bores kicking gas when I visited their farm, shortly after George's passing.

In October 2015, while visiting friends in Hopeland, I planned to visit local farmers George & Pam Bender . I will never forget the phone call, the moment when we learned that dear George had taken his own life. I often think of him and his wife Pam, he was a real character. He was a hardworking, highly skilled, prize-winning farmer who was cruelly pushed too far by the gas companies who had spent over a decade trying to force their way onto his beloved prime land. It would seem that our politicians consider losing a hardworking, highly skilled farmer (like George) to the gas companies, as ‘collateral damage’. The Benders produce sorghum (some crops exported), wheat, barley, chickpeas, cotton and so on. Food and fibre. To see such a fine guardian of his land, worn down to nothing by this filthy scam has been distressing to say the least.

Many impacted landholders that I know have been ‘quietly’ bought out by the offending gas companies. They are often asked to sign non-disclosure agreements, requiring that they do not discuss the terms of the contract, nor are they allowed to move to an area where there is a tenement held by the same company - no mean feat given the expanse of the gas companies tenements. No ongoing health testing or monitoring is being carried out on the residents who have fled or been bought out, which makes statistics on long-term health impacts surrounding the unconventional gas industry conveniently (for the gas companies) difficult to track. Employees medical details are kept ‘in house’. Gas companies have their own private ambulances and air-lift workers out of area if there is an issue. Under wraps - where are industries health statistics?

I have witnessed residents lodge complaint after complaint after complaint to DEHP (Department of Environment & Heritage Protection Qld). Whether it be about a biosecurity breach, a noise breach, a water pollution breach, an air pollution breach, complaints seem to either fall upon deaf ears or are given insufficient (if any) attention instead of the rigorous investigation and follow up that they warrant. Many residents give up, not bothering to file complaints. Time spent (wasted) dealing with the gas companies and the government is immense, and the impacts are undeniably stressful. Residents are not ‘compensated’ for their time. Time stolen from what should be an ordinary daily life, people should not be forced to deal with the imposition of multinational gas companies in their lives .

I spoke with a nurse who told me, ‘they’re killing people’ (in reference to the gas companies activities). She then elaborated about a cancer cluster and said that it was well known about in the hospital but they were unable to speak out about it. I spoke with a driller who told me that they occasionally lose wireline rods (containing caesium137) downhole and that there are many wells that haven’t been properly cased. He said that some aren’t cased all the way down in order to save \$\$.

In my region, I now know of way too many people like myself whose lives have been upturned in the bid to stop this senseless horror-show.

At all the blockades that I've attended in our local area, I have watched as the police (under instruction from the government) assisted Metgasco with their activities, often using incredibly heavy-handed tactics on those of us opposed.

At **Glenugie**, there were over 80 Riot Squad Police in attendance on the day that the drill rig was scheduled to enter the site. I watched as police literally threw two elderly ladies to the ground (one of whom has ongoing shoulder issues from the attack). Her crime; 'inciting people to sing'. Another local was arrested for passing an elderly man a water bottle, another peaceful local was tackled and his head rubbed into the gravel on the side of the road. It was brutal, some of the police appeared to be on steroids or something. I watched as an agitated policeman with a crowbar broke the arm (humerus bone) at the elbow of a young man who was 'locked on' as an obstruction at the main gate. They herded us like cattle to the slaughter yards, down the road, far from the gate where we were blocking the drill rig. It was an incredibly hot day and although the crowd were peaceful and cooperative, the police were by and large, very aggressive and heavy handed.









GLENUGIE SAW MULTIPLE NORTHERN RIVERS RESIDENTS PLACED UNDER ARREST AS WE STOOD PEACEFULLY IN OUR BATTLE TO PROTECT OUR LAND, OUR WATER - OUR FUTURE, FROM HARM

All charges against all arrestees on that particular day were dismissed, with the magistrate labelling the charges ‘vexatious’ and telling police prosecutors ‘they were wasting the court’s time’.

<https://www.northernstar.com.au/news/charges-dropped/1859363/>

<https://www.echo.net.au/2013/12/glenugie-csg-case-dismissed/>

Once the drill rig (aka the ‘Weapon of Mass Destruction’ was forcibly in place, I saw a policeman shake Stuart George’s hand for a ‘job well done’. On a previous occasion I witnessed this same policeman shake hands and exchange some congenial words with Stuart (after breaking our blockade and assisting Metgasco to carry out their seismic activities south of Casino NSW). Game of Mates.



Casino Seismic Testing Blockade



Conga-line of QLD vehicles in Casino NSW



Policeman shaking hands with Stuart George of Metgasco

During the **Doubtful Creek** blockade, I witnessed a very well respected indigenous elder being slammed hard into a tree before being arrested by several police officers for using an expletive, an ‘expletive’ which as he stated to them, was forced upon him via the ‘English language’ - it was not an Aboriginal word. The land he was attempting to protect was his peoples (Githabul) ancestral land. (N.b. The High Court has ruled that this is no longer a public offence, unless there’s certain strenuous circumstances - which is very rare). This elder was clearly targeted by police.



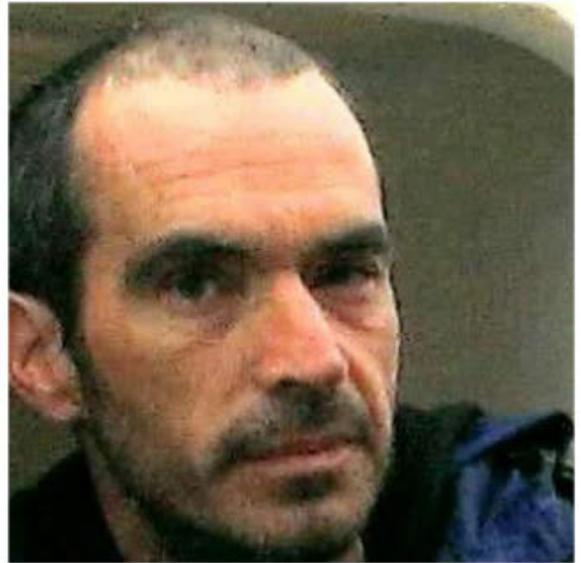
At **Doubtful Creek** blockade, I witnessed a gent who had locked onto a truck being sprayed in the face by a police officer with capsicum spray, despite him not having movement of his hands and not posing any threat whatsoever to the officer. I also witnessed a friend's car intentionally smashed into by a hostile pro gas truck and although this occurred in front of the police, they refused to investigate or breath test the truck driver, instead waving him on. Like at the Glenugie blockade, I saw people being crash tackled to the ground, people being sworn at, leered at, treated like criminals. Under the instruction of the police, we watched as Metgasco desecrated the Aboriginal flag.











**THIS MAN WAS CAPSICUM SPRAYED
WHILST LOCKED ONTO THE TRUCK**





Then there was ‘the **Battle for Bentley**’.

In 2014, hot on the heels of Glenugie and Doubtful Creek, on the outskirts of Lismore, for months on end, thousands of concerned locals (incl. myself) camped in a paddock on a beef farmers property adjoining the proposed Bentley unconventional gas well. Yet another case of regular people, putting their bodies on the line to blockade this insanity. Metgasco had no social license whatsoever to operate, but they did have the support of the government. Citizens do not take such a stance unless pushed. The tension in the air was palpable.

Called ‘Operation Stapler’ and at a cost of at least eight million dollars, up to 800 specialist officers and riot police were on stand-by ready to break our blockade and facilitate Metgasco’s entry to the proposed gas well site. The task force ready to be deployed included water cannons, mounted police and helicopters.

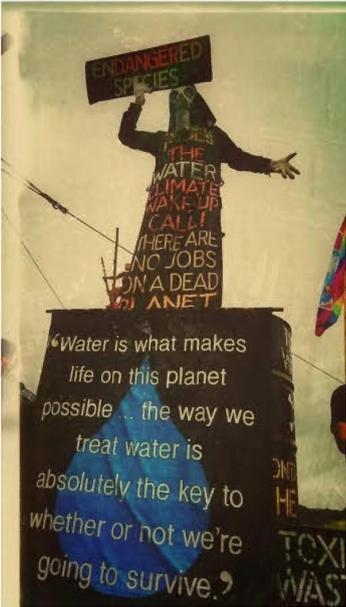
Each time I neared the site, I would take in the stunning landscape and feel an acute pain in my heart. To envisage this landscape as the planned fracked gas field was a gut wrenchingly hideous thought. Aboriginal people had fought on this particular site many moons ago, it was known as ‘Disputed Plains’. To see it defiled was not something that 87% of the populace were willing to stand by and allow to happen.

The angst regarding the threat of the police coming to break our blockade and assist what I consider to be; ‘a weapon of mass destruction’ (the drill rig) was intense. We were exhausted, sleep deprived and running on adrenalin, not knowing what would happen or when the police would turn up. Consequently many people (including myself) have since suffered depression, PTSD, burnout and anxiety. The toll on people’s mental health after years of blockading and fighting to protect our country from this wretched scam has been immense. It has affected so many families and marriages and impacted many peoples general health.

Fortunately in this case, at the 11th hour, Metgasco’s license was suspended and we did not have to face off the army of police and weaponry. Given the magnitude of the blockade, it was alleged that civilian casualties were expected should ‘Operation Stapler’ have played out as planned.

I cannot stress enough, the emotional toll that this battle has taken. It is bad enough fighting the gas companies, let alone our very own supposedly ‘democratic’ government.

.



Incidentally, just prior to Bentley, one of Metgasco's nearby fracked wells (Kingfisher) exploded, sending six workers running for their lives - officially a High Risk Incident. This particular well was

also a tight-gas well, and was drilled into the same formation as the well proposed for Bentley. Reading through drill logs and well completion reports for wells that had been drilled in our area revealed a plethora of shoddy work practices and an alarming amount of instances whereby they'd drilled into/struck water formations and in an effort to plug the aquifer, they would send tonnes and tonnes of substances down the hole(s). Russian roulette. As far as I'm aware, there is no long term monitoring of Metgasco's (now) decommissioned well sites or water bores/creeks in place. Out of sight, out of mind.

HIGH RISK INCIDENT

Date	Incident occurred on 14 July 2013
Event	Unplanned ejection of 18 drill pipes from a gas well
Location	Kingfisher E01 conventional gas discovery well, Casino, NSW

AT A GLANCE

About 200 m of steel drill pipe was forcibly ejected from a gas well due to an unplanned release of gas at high pressure. The gas well was being decommissioned at the time. Some workers were put at serious risk of harm from falling pipes.



The workover rig showing the swivel and a portion of the ejected pipe. Photograph supplied by Metgasco.

THE EXPLORATION SITE

Kingfisher E01 is a conventional gas discovery well (non-CSG) in the Clarence Moreton basin near Casino NSW. Discovered and drilled in 2009, it accessed good-quality CH₄ gas at a depth of around 2000m.

It is one of a number of wells operated by Metgasco Ltd that are subject to a decommissioning and rehabilitation program. Kingfisher E01 is located within PEL 16 granted under the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991* to permit the exploration for hydrocarbons.



The workover rig

Photo depicts the rig from the Kingfisher incident after it has been redeployed to its next job. Photograph by NSW Mine Safety.

THE INCIDENT

On 14 July 2013, about 200m of pipes and drill collars were rapidly ejected from the Kingfisher E01 gas well, into the air, and landed in the vicinity of the drill pad and a number of workers. No one was injured as a result of the incident, however the safety of the workers was affected. The risk to which the workers were exposed is considered by investigators to have been very high. There was also significant equipment damage associated with the incident.

The incident occurred during attempts to decommission the Kingfisher E01 well. The well was over 2000m deep and was experiencing continually rising pressure in the annular void around the production casing. The production casing was a 4½ inch diameter steel casing installed in the full depth of the well.

The pressures experienced in the annular void led to the installation of a temporary isolation plug (bridge plug) at about 200m rather than at a greater depth. Loss of integrity in the



Suspended drill string

Some of the drill string still suspended mid-air after the event. Note: the lighting tower in the foreground had some lights tam off by the falling pipes, some of which can be seen lying on the ground. Photograph supplied by Metgasco.

well meant that gas under pressure could migrate between the inside and outside of the casing. This had been known during the operating life of the well.

Plans had been made to plug and abandon the well which involved killing well production by pumping heavy fluid down the well bore and into the reservoir, removing the well head and ultimately rehabilitating the site. This non-preferred kill method, known as bullheading, was made necessary by the lack of any pre-planned means of conducting heavy kill fluid into the well. This process is conventionally performed using a kill string.

Removal of the well head required a bridge plug to be installed at some depth in the production casing to block any flow from the well and allow safe removal of the well head and installation and testing of a blowout prevention valve assembly. It was intended to then mill (grind) out the temporary bridge plug to allow a program of cementing the well from total depth back to the surface.

Accordingly, the well was killed by a process of bleeding off pressure and admitting heavy fluid. It was monitored overnight and considered to be no longer making pressure.

The bridge plug was installed 200m down from the surface. The rationale for selecting this relatively shallow depth was, in part, the thought that the production casing integrity problems were likely to be below the bridge plug. The well head work was completed and the crew set up to mill out the bridge plug not expecting that the gas pressure had built up beneath the plug.



Bridge plug

A bridge plug similar to that used in the Kingfisher well. Its purpose is to seal the bore casing at a pre-determined depth to isolate any pressure or fluid generated below the plug. It can be drilled out or milled when it is no longer needed.

Photograph by NSW Mine Safety.

After a period of milling, work was stopped for the day and the driller pulled back the drill string. As he did so the drill string began to eject from the well. The mass of the drill string components was insufficient to overcome the well pressure. The drill string was ejected from the hole with powerful force.

There were six workers at various locations around the drill pad. The workers report running away from the workover rig towards safe muster points and in doing so saw sparks and a brief ignition of gas above the rig as the last of the pipes ejected from the well. The drill string broke into four parts which fell in the vicinity of the drill pad and the six workers. One of the drill pipes was ejected over the drill pad fence into the neighbouring paddock.



Drill pipes

A bundle of registered drill pipes damaged during the incident. Photograph by NSW Mine Safety.



Drill collars

The four lowermost segments of the drill string were of far heavier construction. These 'drill collars' are intended to provide weight to the drill string. In this case four collars were insufficient to defeat the pressures encountered in the well.

Photograph by NSW Mine Safety.

Metgasco were cowboys and I will include below some photographs of their workmanship.

They were also caught dumping used pond liners at the regular waste section of the local tip, as well as illegally dumping over 1.3 million litres of untreated coal seam gas water at the Casino sewage treatment plant. This plant was not designed to process such water. The water from the sewage treatment plant ends up in the Richmond River. These such things only came 'to light' because of concerned local citizens monitoring their activities. Perish the thought of what else they 'got away with'.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jesr997RIto&desktop_uri=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DJesr997RIto&app=desktop)

v=Jesr997RIto&desktop_uri=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DJesr997RIto&app=desktop

<https://www.northernstar.com.au/news/kangaroo-dies-after-being-trapped-in-csg-pond/1693307/>

<https://www.northernstar.com.au/news/metgasco-in-hot-water/1415322/>

<http://northcoastvoices.blogspot.com.au/2013/10/metgasco-finally-admits-that-its.html>

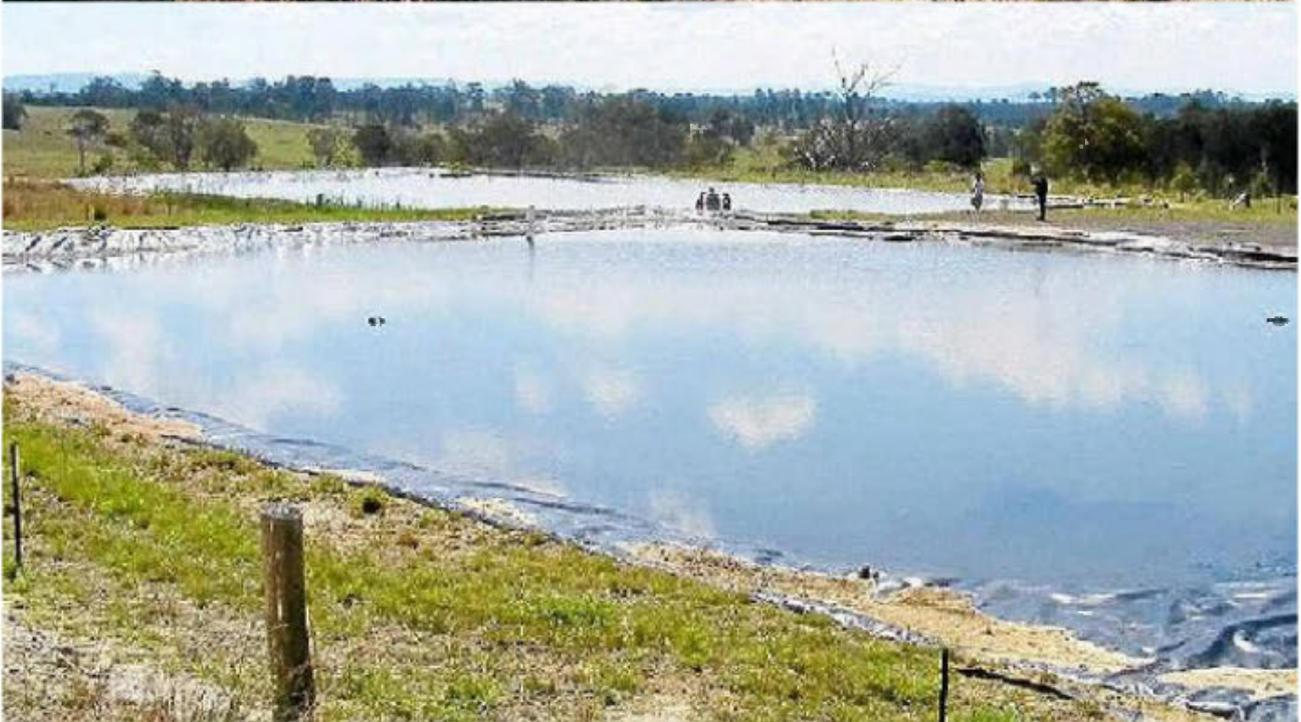
<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/police-headed-for-clash-with-antifracking-army-at-bentley-near-lismore/news-story/7bcfbda45e83407f6e0caa788e1e0697>

<http://www.news.com.au/national/breaking-news/bentley-blockade-bids-farewell/news-story/32913debd74d080e6c9f7e93bb898175>

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/police-swarm-to-north-coast-in-an-8-million-operation-to-remove-antigas-protesters/news-story/eca195afd2f3658abd365c5d9868165e>

HERE ARE A FEW PHOTOGRAPHS OF METGASCO'S 'QUALITY' WORKMANSHIP IN NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES:





KANGAROO DIED AFTER BEING TRAPPED IN METGASCO EVAPORATION POND



<https://www.northernstar.com.au/news/slippery-slope-to-death/1693669/>

By no means is this a comprehensive summary of all that I've experienced in this battle to protect our country from harm, it is simply an overview.

Over the past 6.5 years, I have watched too many members of my community and others throughout Australia, sacrifice their own personal lives, putting themselves 'out there' to stand up for what is right. We are regular people who should never have been forced into such an extraordinarily unjust situation. We've had a gut full of the demonisation, the half truths and misinformation dished out to us by the gas companies and our governments. There are no baseline studies, no rigorous, necessary long-term health studies, there is no real regulation of this horrid industry. There is collusion between industry and the government at all levels. This is a battle to protect our land, our water, our future, our children's future, our homes and a battle for justice. It is also a battle to protect and honour the land that we are so fortunate to call home. She is our 'mother'. I feel utterly depressed when I think of all that we have been through and continue to endure in our quest to stop this senseless, destructive, cruel, invasive, polluting, unjust scam.

What hope do we have when incredibly brave whistleblowers such as Simone Marsh (who was appointed to draft the QLD Coordinator General's evaluation reports for proposed Multinational LNG projects) have been denied justice, her VITAL and damning evidence swept under the rug by a corrupt State and Federal Government.

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/whistle-blower-simone-marshs-new-expos-the-corrupt-birth-of-the-queensland-gas-industry,8547>

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/the-great-gas-con-how-we-got-sucked-dry/>

Another brave whistleblower, Fiona Wilson (a former Origin Energy employee) was recently detained by the 'QLD Fixated Threat Assessment Centre' and injected with a drug called Abilify for 6 months. against her will and without charge. She has since been released but must report for monthly injections, otherwise she will be detained again. Without such whistleblowers, how can the truth regarding the dark side of this industry ever be exposed?

<https://www.gofundme.com/barrister-needed-for-fiona-wilson>

In summary, the Unconventional Gas industry has impacted my life in a most negative way. I am no longer a positive person. My hopes for the future are bleak. I have constant anxiety. Having witnessed what I have over the 6.5 years has left me feeling disillusioned and glum. I live in genuine fear of this harmful industry and its accompanying impacts. I fear that it will return to my region, a region that our community has fought so very hard to protect. The simple pleasures of life have been taken away from me, I am traumatised by what I've seen and experienced. Only a psychopath would allow what is essentially a sinister experiment to be conducted upon our land and her people. Our whistleblowers allegations must be heard and all those involved in advancing this escalating scam need to be thoroughly investigated. A Royal Commission is needed.

There are literally countless other disturbing incidents that I could write about, but I've written enough. I am scarred, but I am determined to continue - we have everything to lose.

C Woodstock

EXPLORATORY FRACK SAND MINE - RAVENS ROAD WIEAMBILLA QLD.

THIS LAND WAS CLEARED & EXCAVATIONS WERE CONDUCTED WITHOUT APPROVAL. THIS MEANS NO FLORA & FAUNA SPOTTER OR ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT WAS CONDUCTED AND APPROVED PRIOR TO THIS VANDALISM TAKING PLACE.

THE PROPERTY HOUSED A FRAGILE ECOSYSTEM AND WAS UNIQUE IN TERMS OF ITS VEGETATION. WITH ONLY 1 OR 2 GOVERNMENT REGULATORS TO COVER THE ENTIRE AREA BETWEEN TOOWOOMBA AND ROMA, THINGS LIKE THIS GO UNADDRESSED. COMPLAINTS WERE MADE, BUT AS ALWAYS, THEY FELL UPON DEAF EARS.

TO SEE THE DISGUSTING WAY IN WHICH THIS LAND WAS BRUTALISED WITHOUT APPROVAL MAKES ME SICK.









**SOME PHOTOS I TOOK OF QUEENSLAND'S WESTERN DOWNS
FROM THE AIR - 2014**



CONFIDENTIALITY CLAUSES SEE GAS COMPANIES STITCHING UP IMPACTED RESIDENTS TO STOP CLAIMS FOR ANY FUTURE HEALTH IMPACTS OR LIGHT IMPACTS

3.1 This Agreement continues for the Term specified in Item 6 of Schedule 1.

4 Confidentiality

4.1 The terms of this Agreement shall be kept confidential by the Parties and shall not be disclosed to any other person except:

- (a) where disclosure is required as a matter of law or by the rules of any stock exchange;
- (b) in the case of the Tenement Holder, where the disclosure is made to a person which is intending to acquire an interest or has acquired an interest in the Petroleum Authorities;
- (c) to the legal and financial advisors of each party;

3 Other possible impacts

3.1 [REDACTED] agree that the Compensation Amount is also being paid in full and final settlement of all present and future claims which may have arisen or which may in the future arise as a result of any dust, odour, light or vibration emissions arising from the Operations, and [REDACTED] further agree to release and discharge the Tenement Holder, its nominees, contractors, agents and employees from all present and future claims, demands, complaints, costs, losses, damages, liabilities, expenses, actions or proceedings which have arisen or which may arise from any dust, odour, light or vibration emissions arising from the carrying out of the Operations.

3.2 [REDACTED] agree not to commence any such proceedings against the Tenement Holder or its Contractors and further agree that this Agreement may be pleaded as bar to any such proceedings commenced by the [REDACTED] in any Queensland Court in respect of dust, odour, light or vibration impacts from the Operations.

AN INDUSTRIALISED LANDSCAPE - GRIDDED WITH HAZARDOUS, DANGER SIGNS, PIPELINES AND POLLUTION.





WE NEED OUR FARMS AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTED, WE NEED UNCONVENTIONAL GAS MINING BANNED.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME