



Hon Jeff Seeney MP
Deputy Premier

Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

Our ref: MC12/2932
MN132207

Your ref: Petitions 1883-12/1956-12

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Sts
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letters of 22 and 24 August 2012, forwarding Petitions 1883-12 and 1956-12 in regards to a 12 month moratorium on coal seam gas projects. I have considered the petition and am pleased to provide the following response.

While the coal seam gas to liquefied natural gas (CSG-LNG) process is new to Queensland, it should be noted that gas has a long history in Queensland, beginning in 1961 with the powering of the Roma power station. Since then gas has represented an ever increasing portion of the state's electricity generation and domestic energy consumption. Currently, around 20 per cent of all electricity generated in Queensland is derived from gas. This power is generated with 50 per cent fewer greenhouse emissions than current coal generation.

I can assure you the government is committed to ensuring the CSG-LNG industry develops in a way that complements protecting the environment whilst supporting the economic future of other sectors. This is in accordance with the government's four pillar approach, which includes facilitating the co-existence of the agricultural and mining industries. A measure of this is the Gasfields Commission which will assist in managing the coexistence of rural landholders, regional communities and the CSG-LNG industry.

The CSG-LNG projects that have obtained conditional approval underwent a rigorous process, resulting in some of the strictest conditions and regulations that have been placed on projects to date.

Once approved, a project is regularly monitored to ensure it meets strict environmental and safety requirements, including whether it poses a significant human health risk.

To advance this strict regulatory and monitoring regime, the LNG Enforcement Unit was established. The unit comprises specialists and regionally-based officers, which acts as a one-stop shop for landholder and other stakeholder enquiries, as well as undertaking investigations into safety, land access, groundwater and environmental incidents or concerns.

In regards to drinking water, strict water quality requirements are also imposed on proponents through the need to produce a "drinking water quality management plan" under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*.

In addition, 'make good' obligations have been placed on proponents to ensure any impacts their water extraction activities have on existing water supplies are addressed either by restoring the bore's capacity or providing the bore owner with an alternative water supply.

In order to avoid potential disruption to agricultural businesses due to CSG activities, land access laws have been implemented that improve the transparency, equity and cooperation between the agricultural and resource sectors in relation to access to private land. Importantly, the land access laws provide landholders with greater protection of their rights, and strengthen compensation arrangements associated with resource tenures.

Our government is also establishing statutory regional plans to identify appropriate land uses for each region and to map out the social and economic needs for affected communities. These plans will balance competing interests and ensure that high quality farmland is protected from other land uses that may permanently damage that farmland.

Thank you for bringing the concerns of this petition to my attention. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



JEFF SEENEY MP
DEPUTY PREMIER

Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning