



12 March 2013

FEDERAL POWERS OVER CSG AND COAL MINE WATER

Conservationists congratulate Tony Burke, Federal Environment Minister, for the extension of Commonwealth powers over water impacts from coal mines and coal seam gas (CSG) projects.

Capricorn Conservation Council coordinator Michael McCabe said, “After years of raising concerns about coal seam gas and coal mines harming our rivers, wetlands and ground water, including risks to the Great Artesian Basin, the imposition of federal water powers is greatly welcome.”

“Central Queenslanders already familiar with the existing water management problems of open cut coal mines, which currently hold over 250,000 megalitres of water, need more information about the escalating pressure on the Fitzroy system from the impending coal and gas rush.”

“Extraction of Surat Basin CSG by Santos¹ and QGC² for their Curtis Island LNG plants is expected to release over 75,000 megalitres of treated coal seam water into Dawson River over the next 25 years.”

“The proposed 7,000 CSG wells by Arrow Energy³ between Moranbah and Duaringa have an estimated impact on ground water up to a depth of 800 metres over a 9,000 square kilometre area.”

“CCC has raised objection to proposals to re-inject toxic, saline CSG sludge into aquifers near Eurombah Creek in the Upper Dawson.”

“The four major Fitzroy dam and weir proposals which would damage the river’s ecological health are primarily for mine expansion, not food production; just as Fairbairn Dam irrigation licences are being snapped up for the proposed massive Galilee Basin thermal coal mines.”

“These proposed mega mines and rail corridors threaten underground water and overland flows by replicating, in the Burdekin catchment, the water management nightmare of the Bowen Basin’s hundreds of kilometres of open cut pits and permanent final voids.”

“At long last our comments to the seemingly endless EIS submissions on water security and threats to nature conservation appear to have been heard.”

¹ [p.\(V\). SANTOS Dawson River Release Scheme EA amendment](http://www.santos.com/library/Dawson_River_release_scheme_EA_amendment_application_supporting_information.pdf)
http://www.santos.com/library/Dawson_River_release_scheme_EA_amendment_application_supporting_information.pdf

² [Sunwater/woleebee-creek-glebe-weir/overview](http://www.sunwater.com.au/future-developments/woleebee-creek-glebe-weir/overview)
<http://www.sunwater.com.au/future-developments/woleebee-creek-glebe-weir/overview>

³ [Arrow Energy-assessment-eis/bowen-gas-project-eis](http://www.arrowenergy.com.au/community/project-assessment-eis/bowen-gas-project-eis)
<http://www.arrowenergy.com.au/community/project-assessment-eis/bowen-gas-project-eis>