

7<sup>th</sup> July 2020

On behalf of Charles and Melissa Tym

35 Craigmoor Rd, Mudgee, NSW

Dear

*John*



**Last chance for farmers in Western NSW to save their water from CSG**

Santos plan to drill thousands of gas wells through the ancient and pristine underground water tables in Western NSW.

Hundreds of bores in Queensland have been polluted and ruined by CSG wells as you can see from the attached Chinchilla Newspaper.

The world is drowning in excess gas and shipments are being turned away from their destination ports. Utility scale renewable energy costs are rapidly coming down and this risky project makes absolutely no sense.

**As an influential and prominent Australian citizen I am writing to you to see if you could review the attached article and assist in drawing community attention to this environmentally damaging project.**

The IPC are holding hearings on the Narrabri Gas project from July 20 to July 24. Thousands of people have lodged objections to this project via the IPC.

If you could see your way clear to raise awareness of this issue in our community, thousands of your fellow citizens would be eternally grateful.

You can really make a difference for future generations

Yours sincerely,

*Charles Tym*

0418 235 113 – Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

7<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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Dear *Stephen,*



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# Chinchilla News

and Murilla Advertiser



## WAKE UP TO THE IMPACTS

- 'Six of my bores have been decommissioned due to CSG'
- Groundwater assessor says 574 bores to be affected

**Brooke Duncan**  
Brooke.Duncan@chinchilla  
news.com.au

WHEN CSG workers first arrived at Brian Bender's Chinchilla property, he was told there would be little – if any – impact on his groundwater.

Fast forward to 2019 and Mr Bender's water bores are just a few of hundreds that have been depleted by the resource industry.

In recent years, Mr Bender has had six of his water bores decommissioned, the last

in August 2018.

Three were long-term impacted by draw-down, while the other three were affected by free gas which made them unsafe to use.

■ FULL REPORT:  
PAGES 4-5.



# BORE IMPACTS: your water until

**Brooke Duncan**  
Brooke.Duncan@chinchilla  
news.com.au

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**“People need to wake up to themselves that this industry is taking a lot of water.”**

— Brian Bender

“The process of getting decommissioned is improving, but they do affect bores,” Mr Bender told the *Chinchilla News*.

“People need to wake up to themselves that this industry is taking a lot of water. It's just unsustainable.”

Up to 101 bores in the Chinchilla, Roma and Miles are expected to be affected by CSG activity within the next three years, according to the latest draft Underground Water Impact Report from the Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment.

All will be subject to make-good agreements, where gas companies are

obligated to make up for the damage done.

The report outlines in the long-term, an estimated 574 bores will be affected by CSG companies.

As part of the draft UWIR, OGIA hosted a series of community information sessions throughout the Surat Basin.

Contamination, 200 year turnarounds, and the ongoing legacy of Linc Energy were discussed at the Chinchilla meeting.

## Good information – but still not enough

■ THE last impact report was completed in 2016. For OGIA general manager Sanjeev Pandey, the key

message is the office has been able to revise predictions on the cumulative impacts of CSG industry.

“New data and information helps us to understand impacts,” Mr Pandey said.

According to the report, the Hutton Sandstone and Condamine Alluvium aquifers are now predicted to experience less impacts than in the 2016 models, while the Walloon Coal Measures and Springbok Sandstone will experience even more.

Chinchilla resident and consultant Shay Dougall said the data has never been more complete.

That said, the data was in Mrs Dougall's words “disturbing”.

## 200 years to return to pre-CSG levels

■ FOR Dulacca landholder and Basin Sustainability Alliance chairman Lee McNicholl one of the biggest issues is unsustainability.

He said the OGIA model predicts it will be at least 200 years before water standing levels returns to what they were before the onset of the gas industry.

“The bottom line is we are taking more than what is being recharged. It will take at least 200 years to correct this,” Mr McNicholl said.

“I sound like a cracked



**WATER REPORT:** Chinchilla landholder Brian Bender said the 2019 UWIR draft report had good information - but there are still concerns.

PHOTO: BROOKE DUNCAN



# You WON'T miss your well runs dry



long term."

"Water moving away from that site is potentially dangerous with contamination risks.

"You don't want that water moving any faster than it does naturally."

## Should coal mining take be included?

■ IN ALL past UWIRs there is one industry that's crucially been left out – coal mining.

However, Mr McNicholl said that could change, with the DES now gauging support for including the

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— Lee McNicholl

water take of coal mines in future reports.

"It's insanity that it hasn't been, because the coal industry targets the Walloo Coal Measures," Mr Nicholl said.

"They are another major taker on an unlimited basis.

He said the BSA "enthusiastically supported the proposition to include the coal industry take in future reports.

## Consultation still open

■ PUBLIC submissions for the draft 2019 UWIR are still open but are set to close on July 8.

More information on how to enter a submission is available at [www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/landholder/csg/surat-cma/consultation-draft-uwir](http://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/landholder/csg/surat-cma/consultation-draft-uwir).



Basin Sustainability Alliance president Lee McNicholl.

PHOTO: FILE

record but it's high time we start taking water management a lot more seriously."

## Contamination concerns

■ ONE question that got no clear response surrounded

the impacts of contamination of the Linc Energy site.

Ms Dougall said she was told she would need to complete a Right to Information Request to access any information about the potential

movement of contamination from the Linc Energy site through draw-down on affected bores.

It's also Mr Bender's biggest concern - especially after the Department of Environment and Science allowed for monitoring bores close to the site.

"There's a water bore in the middle of the Linc site that's been predicted to drop long term by 160m," Mr Bender said.

"It's next-door neighbour has a long-term drop of about 140m, and on the western boundary the neighbour to Linc is 120m.

"So there's three bores within not very far of the Linc Energy site that are predicted by OGIA to drop by more than 120m over the