

Dear Commissioners.

My name is Yvonne Ellis, I am a 78 year old great grandmother.

I live in Pilliga Village. My view out the front is across to the beautiful Pilliga Sagoon.

I have spent my adult life living and working in this region.

I am against the coal seam gas mining coming to our area and harming our environment.

We don't want our peace and quiet shattered by endless trucks and blocks speeding around in ever-sized rates.

Already there are unmarked, new 'sneaks' coming from the bush and we are hearing blasting in the ~~the~~ forest.

I have met people from all around the world because of the Pilliga Birds.

When I lived at Yathella cut on the Coonamble Road a bird count was done and they got to 120 species.

We can hike along through our forest and we see Kangaroos, Possums, Wallabies, Echidnas and all kinds of Snakes and Lizards.

In the middle of the scrubs there is a Firetower at the old Salt Caves. When you climb up you have a view in every direction, as far as the eye can see and it is entirely bush. I can't climb it now because of Arthritis but I always enjoy the memories.

Our Bone Bath is a great benefit for people with Arthritis or injuries. Everyone knows how good the Artesian hot water is and many travellers return many times.

Sometimes you can barely get a car park. We don't have a town feel so most of our kids

lean to swim in the bore and it is always busy with local families playing and having B.B.Q.s, I have rainwater for drinking. But like everyone else I count on the bore water for my garden all washing and animals.

We need it for firefighting too of course about 5 years ago Santos tried to sponsor our community centre. Our community knocked them back because of the problems they will give over Vallega and farms I have already been poisoned when an aerial crop duster sprayed us when we were cotton chaffing.

It was a life changing event as it really knocked my health around.

Meric put up with enough poisons without coal seam gas adding to it.

We noticed, meric all noticed, the Summers are getting hotter and the Winters are getting shorter and warmer.

The heat is intensifying and it is harder to keep even heat tolerant plants alive.

I've worked as a shearers cook a driver and heap of other hard jobs and I know what heat feels like.

A couple of years ago an old man was walking past my yard and stopped to talk to me. He'd seen all the NOCSB Yellow Seigs around Vallega and was shocked and sad to realise the gas industry was coming here.

The poor man had left G.L.D. for a holiday and was camped at the bore.

He started crying because he'd had friends suicide over the pressure of the gas disputes over their land around Chinchilla.

We know jobs are important but they need to be healthy and life improving not causing damage for our poor little kids to deal with. Please help us

Regards Yvonne Ellis P.S. Our Lagoom

is linked to the Namoi River just north July 21st 2020