

9-11-2018

Patricia Kahler

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this as my Submission to the Great Artesian Basin Draft Strategic Management Plan.

After reading the Great Artesian Basin draft Strategic Management Plan, I noted that there appears to be a lack of transparent public reporting, gaps in knowledge that directly affect the ability to understand and properly manage the Basin into the future and find this to be unacceptable.

This draft strategic management plan for the Great Artesian Basin also seems to have missed the opportunity to deal with real and detrimental challenges facing the GAB from expanded mining and unconventional gas in a changing climate.

I noted that in the "Opportunities" it was suggested that we should enable and encourage the beneficial use of co-produced water?

I ask the Question, is this to be the reuse of produced water from CSG wells? If so, I see this as further polluting the land and water ways that we Australians, all rely on, for sustenance and should be banned for the health of our natural environment that supports us all.

I also noted that

"This review documented emerging issues including risks to groundwater that may arise from mining and unconventional gas development. It noted (3.1): 'It is crucial that water extractions for mining and unconventional gas related activities is transparent and accountable, does not compromise the long-term sustainability of the resource, does not erode the water rights of other users and minimises any potential third party impacts. Accurate assessments of water use and entitlement arrangements are essential to ensure longterm water access for water users'"

Despite all of these risks, the plan fails to properly address the totally unfair and unsustainable management that allows mining and gas resource industries almost unlimited access to GAB water in states like Queensland while other users have to purchase their entitlements.

Farmers and graziers are losing bores permanently due to Coal Seam Gas production. I find this offensive and completely unacceptable when there are renewable energy options available that do not require such high volumes of water extraction and do not add to pollution and the climate's change.

To ensure protection into the future of the Great Arterial Basin, I suggest setting very strict standards for environmental assessments and an independent body to advise on any future mining and gas projects.

Coal-to-gas activities in QLD have already proven to be highly polluting and have created an environmental disaster and dead zone that has negatively impacted Air, land, water, people's health, their livelihoods, flora and fauna with Coal gasification which is now banned in Queensland.

Any further developments on coal gasification in South Australia or the Northern Territory, needs to be very carefully scrutinised for potential impacts to the Great Arterial Basin. In closing, based on the experience of QLD, I suggest that the practice is banned in Australia to secure our water into the future in a rapidly changing climate.

Yours Sincerely

Patricia Kahler