

## Response ID ANON-XVYX-N2D2-N

Submitted to **Independent review of the 'water trigger' legislation**

Submitted on **2016-01-26 08:54:59**

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No, I would like to continue to complete the questionnaire

### TOR 1: Examine the appropriateness of the regulation including whether it is necessary and well targeted

#### 3 Is there a significant likelihood of a substantial negative environmental impact from coal seam gas and large coal mining development on water resources in the absence of the water trigger legislation?

Yes

Please tell us why:

Because water impacts do not respect state borders— as with the Murray-Darling Basin and the Great Artesian Basin — and because states like QLD and NSW have shown that they will approve mining and CSG projects even to the detriment of water sources as identified in the court (as in the Galilee Basin, with the GVK/Rinehart mine). Nor do they take cumulative impacts into account. The national longterm water interests must be overseen by the Federal Government to stop this trend.

#### 4 Is the scope and focus of the legislation appropriate to the problem being addressed?

No

Please tell us why:

All unconventional gas extraction (CSG, shale and tight) projects and all operations associated with coalmining and gas need to be involved in the trigger— such as bores, dams, pipelines, wastewater treatment facilities etc.

#### 5 Are there significant gaps in the scope or intent of the legislation?

Yes

Please tell us why:

as above

#### 6 Please upload additional information relating to TOR 1 if you wish

File upload:

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### TOR 2: Effectiveness of the regulation in protecting water resources from the impacts of coal seam gas and large coal mining projects, including the role and scope of work given to the IESC

#### 7 In your opinion has the water trigger legislation been effective in protecting water resources potentially and actually affected by relevant developments?

Uncertain

Please tell us why::

Needs to have more weight and its recommendations be binding

#### 8 Please upload additional information relating to TOR 2 if you wish

File upload:

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### TOR 3: Identify any opportunities to improve the effectiveness of the regulation

#### 9 Are there gaps in the scope of the legislation that reduce its effectiveness in protecting water resource from relevant developments?

Yes

**Please tell us why:**

as in 4

**10 Are there opportunities to improve the clarity of the legislation? This could include responses concerning the definitions of actions which are covered by the legislation, and whether the approval conditions on those developments provide benefit in protecting water resources.**

Uncertain

**Please tell us what type/s of opportunities may improve the clarity of the legislation:**

**11 Are there improvements that could be made to the way in which advice is sought by the Australian Government from the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (IESC) that could increase the efficiency of processes required as part of the water trigger?**

Not Answered

**Please tell us why:**

**12 Were stakeholders appropriately involved in the implementation of the water trigger legislation?**

Uncertain

**Please tell us why:**

**13 Please upload additional information relating to TOR 3 here if you wish**

**File upload:**

No file was uploaded

**TOR 4: Examine the efficiency of the regulation in protecting water resources from the impacts of coal seam gas and large coal mining projects**

**14 Have there been additional administrative compliance and delay costs arising from the water trigger that have affected business, community organisations and individuals?**

Uncertain

**Please tell us why:**

This should be considered as a necessary cost of business since the aim of the trigger is an essential one : water.

**15 Has the water trigger been beneficial in providing environmental outcomes, community confidence in the regulatory system of applying science to decision-making and management of environmental risk?**

Uncertain

**Please tell us why:**

Hope was high in the beginning; attempts to dismantle or weaken the trigger have lowered public trust in the process.

**16 Has the water trigger delivered an overall benefit when regulatory costs are compared to the environmental and other benefits?**

Yes

**Tell us why:**

Because any protections for long term water supplies is worth whatever it takes.

**17 Have there been additional administrative and other costs to governments arising from the implementation of the water trigger?**

Uncertain

**Tell us why:**

I assume so.

**Upload file:**

No file was uploaded

**TOR 5: Identify any opportunities to reduce or simplify the regulation whilst maintaining its effectiveness**

**18 Are there any opportunities to reduce or simplify the regulation whilst maintaining its effectiveness?**

Uncertain

**Please tell us more:**

**Upload file:**

No file was uploaded

**TOR 6: Identify any recommended appropriate future review points of the regulation**

**19 Are there particular points in time, outside the statutory schedule for the review of the EPBC Act (reviewed every 10 years from commencement) that should be considered as review points for the water trigger?**

Uncertain

**Please tell us why:**

**Personal information**

**20 What is your name?**

**First name:**

Sharyn

**Last name:**

Munro

**21 I wish to make this submission anonymously**

Not Answered

**22 Contact details**

**Email address:**

[REDACTED]

**Mailing address:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Postcode:**

[REDACTED]

**23 What is your organisation (if applicable)?**

**Organisation:**

NA

**24 What has been your involvement with the Water Trigger legislation?**

Other (please describe)

**Please describe:**

Ex-Hunter Valley resident, witness to much damage to water, know many people and communities impacted and under threat such as on the Liverpool Plains, Galilee Basin and in the Gloucester and Manning Valleys etc.

**25 How did you hear about the water trigger review?**

Community organisation or peak body

**If other, how?:**

**26 Rate the following sources of information regarding the water trigger review.**

**rank - Department of the Environment website:**

Useful

**rank - Issues Paper:**

Useful

**27 Which of the following sources of information do you find useful for information on coal seam gas and coal mining?**

**Rate sources of information - Media:**

Useful

**Rate sources of information - Government:**

**Rate sources of information - Scientific and research bodies such as CSIRO and universities:**

**Rate sources of information - Information from community groups and peak bodies (eg websites, newsletters):**

Useful

**Rate sources of information - Informal sources such as word of mouth:**