

Response ID ANON-XVYX-N2BJ-B

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

Submitted on **2016-01-29 10:33:23**

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2 Would you like to submit your uploaded file now or continue to the questionnaire?

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:

It seems that some projects are going ahead without proper approvals in place. The Leewood Reverse Osmosis Treatment Plant, for instance, does not have EPA approval through yet.

The government needs to ensure all projects are proven to be safe before allowing them to start. If there is any doubt that the Great Artesian Basin could become contaminated, and there is lots of evidence this will be so, then CSG must be banned.

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

No

Please tell us why:

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

Yes

Please tell us why:

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?

No

Please tell us why::

Generally, Australia is in dire straits with our water situation. One only has to look at the Murray/Darling and the headwaters at the Condamine to see the stress that the whole river system is under from the CSG drilling and the gas bubbling in the river. Add the drought situation and places like Menindee Lakes are dying for lack of water.

Something more needs to be done.

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:

Why is Leewood allowed to start when approvals aren't in place?(narrabri/Santos)

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?

Uncertain

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:

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:

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

Uncertain

Tell us why:

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

Uncertain

Tell us why:

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:

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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?

Not Answered

Please tell us why:

Please listen to environmentalists, not just scientists.

Personal information

20 What is your name?

First name:

[REDACTED]

Last name:

[REDACTED]

21 I wish to make this submission anonymously

Yes

22 Contact details

Email address:

[REDACTED]

Mailing address:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

23 What is your organisation (if applicable)?

Organisation:

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

I am interested because of my environmental concerns/I am responding on behalf of an environmental group.

Please describe:

25 How did you hear about the water trigger review?

Word of mouth

If other, how?:

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

rank - Department of the Environment website:

rank - Issues Paper:

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:

Not useful

Rate sources of information - Government:

Neutral

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

Neutral

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

Neutral

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