

Dear Minister,

I am writing to ask you to take a stand alongside millions of Australians to protect our communities and our future from the coal seam gas industry.

It is clear from numerous media reports and other publicly available information that people in many communities are suffering, and that our farmland, bushland and water resources across the nation are being put at risk by the coal seam gas industry.

I believe that, as an elected representative, you have a responsibility to do everything in your power to ensure healthy communities, clean water, food security and a sustainable future for all Australians. While state governments are responsible for licensing coal seam gas exploration and drilling, federal parliament has a responsibility to use Commonwealth powers to protect our country.

There are a number of ways that the federal government can act to protect communities and our environment from damaging CSG development. These include:

- ◆ using trade and commerce powers to create “no-go” zones;
- ◆ monitoring fugitive emissions;
- ◆ ending subsidies to the gas companies; and
- ◆ legislating (and enforcing) national standards for CSG extraction.

I urge you to acknowledge the wide-ranging risks associated with the coal seam gas industry and take urgent action to represent the interests of the population by raising the issue in parliament and using your current election campaign to publicly express your support for a nationwide ban on fracking, ending CSG exploration and extraction in drinking water catchments and on agricultural land, and a moratorium on CSG exploration and extraction until a Royal Commission into the impacts of CSG development is completed.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,