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# JEFF SEENEY MP

### MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

**Shadow Minister for Natural Resources,
Mines and Energy**

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Tuesday, 20 July 2010                                     *Our ref: 100720/ltrstoeditor//JW*

To the Editor
Qld Country Life

Dear Sir

Irrespective of how serious it eventually proves to be, the problems with the coal-to-gas trial at Kingaroy that have emerged in the past week highlight the extent to which the Bligh Labor Government has failed Queensland landholders.

This project was a trial of a controversial new technology and if the Department was closely monitoring anything about the mining boom it should have been monitoring this site.

Yet it seems there was no Government oversight at all and answers I received at last week's Estimates hearings t Parliament reveal why.

The Mines Minister Stephen Robertson admitted to me the Government employed more than double the number of 'tree police' as mine inspectors. He confirmed his Department employed 173 officers to monitor and enforce Labor's controversial Vegetation Management Act, but just 79 inspectors to cover the booming, mining, gas and petroleum industries state-wide.

Most of the 79 officers listed as mine inspectors are really only looking at workplace health and safety issues, not overseeing that mining and gas companies are complying with requirements under the Act, particularly regards to exploration.

Any reasonable person observing the massive growth in mining and particularly in coal-seam gas exploration and extraction across vast areas of the state would question the number of inspectors being employed by the Bligh Government.

The Labor Government is determined to catch and prosecute any farmer who may knock over a Brigalow tree, but they are not prepared to put the same focus on ensuring the mining boom is properly administered.

Yours sincerely

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

**Jeff Seeney MP**
Member for Callide

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Banana, Bundaberg (part of), Cherbourg, Dalby (part of), Gympie (part of), North Burnett and South Burnett. (part of)