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Our ref: 110228/QCL/CSG/JW

Monday, 28 February 2011

Old Country Life
Letter to Editor

CSG Co-existence claim

I do not agree with the claim by QCL last week that there is some problem with my effort to ensure a coexistence between rural landholders and the CSG industry

Thousands of landholders have already successfully negotiated a mutually beneficial coexistence and the smarter ones have achieved an outcome that will complement their agricultural operation and benefit their family financially for many years to come. My efforts will continue to be focused on ensuring more landholders end up with a better outcome from their coexistence with this new industry.

No one can change the fact that this huge energy resource underlies rural landholders properties. No one can change the fact that this resource belongs to all four million Queenslanders and they have every right to extract the resource to build new roads and schools and hospitals across the State

What I am focused on changing is the outcome for rural landholders and rural communities. I am determined that both individual landholders and rural communities get the maximum possible benefit from the ongoing development of the CSG industry.

Already the LNP Opposition has pushed the Government into considerable legislative change to better empower landholders and to better protect the land and water assets that are the basis of their agricultural businesses. It is regrettable that our work in the Parliament does not attract as much attention as staged performances for tabloid television but it produces better results for the rural community.

Most of that tabloid type media hype is not only dishonest or misleading but it has a real danger of backfiring on rural landholders. One example is the sensationalising of the use of chemicals and describing every chemical as a lethal toxin or cancer causing.

Farmers spray hundreds of thousands of liters of chemicals across the Darling Downs every year and that huge chemical use is almost totally unregulated. If the attempt to demonise the CSG industry for using much smaller amounts of chemicals is successful how long will it be before the same activists are sneaking into farmers sheds and stealing samples from drums and spray rigs for the tabloid media.

I would encourage any rural landholder who believes that the extensive new regulations under which the CSG industry is now operating are being broken or ignored to contact the inspectors that are now in the field and we in the LNP Opposition will continue to ensure the State Labor Government improves the policing of those regulations.

I would also be pleased to hear from anyone who believes the regulations or legislation can be changed to further improve the situation for rural landholders and rural communities.

That has been and will remain my focus as the CSG industry develops

Yours sincerely

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jeff Seeney MP

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