



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Coal Seam Gas threatens our food producers and community's health

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc (HOPE) reaffirms its call for a freeze on Coal Seam Gas (CSG) projects in Queensland until there is scientific certainty that environmental and human health impacts can be safeguarded.

HOPE believes that as with climate change, the public can only arrive at an informed view based on reliable scientific data.

Although there has been considerable positive publicity about the economic benefits of this development, the organisation believes the environmental and health impacts have been greatly ignored.

HOPE urges the Queensland and Commonwealth Government's to appoint a team of scientists from organisations such as CSIRO and the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corp, to investigate and report on the environmental impacts and risks associated with the CSG extraction.

According to Mr Frank Ondrus, HOPE President, the state government also needs to begin a process of public consultation and talk to the community groups who are concerned about the threats of coal seam gas to Queensland's food producing areas.

"This issue has resulted in a fairly uncommon alliance of farmers, environmentalists, local councils and communities," he said. "We believe that the government needs to be talking directly to these people."

"Furthermore, we believe that major reports associated with the proposed project should be made available for public scrutiny and comment."

Mr. Ondrus says we are in an era of growing food scarcity and increasing environmental pressures on productive agricultural land, he believes that any developments that could have adverse effects on a resource as important as our food producing areas should come under the sharpest form of scrutiny.

"Let us have a fair and balanced debate on the merits of coal seam gas development incorporating the full spectrum of economic, social and environmental considerations."

For further information please contact Frank Ondrus on 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au.

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