

COMMENT

COMMENTS by Queensland Resources Council CEO Michael Roche {QCL Oct 29} absolving the CSG industry of any influence on George Bender's death are beyond credibility.

Even Mr Roche must admit that George was a "true blue Queensland" farmer. He and his forebears have farmed sustainably at Hopeland since 1907.

By comparison, the QRC's contribution to Queensland can only be measured from their inception in November 2003. Perusal of QRC membership shows that it is dominated by foreign multi-nationals.

The Basin Sustainability Alliance believes the jury is still well and truly out on QRC's commitment to conserving the environmental, agricultural and social values of rural Queensland.

The QRC has lobbied the Newman and now the Palaszczuk governments to include provisions in the WROLA Act which allow the minerals sector "unlimited take of associated water" from underground water aquifers, on the ludicrous basis that the CSG sector already has this "special exemption".

This surely highlights their scant regard for rural Queensland's drought-proofing lifeblood, namely our precious underground water.

QRC's much touted "make good" agreements for resource-company-impacted bores are a short term diversionary delusion.

Unlimited "make good" to compensate for "unlimited take" from declining aquifer reserves is clearly unsustainable.

The BSA is making submissions to the current review of the Great Artesian Basin management plan reflecting our concerns. As was George Bender, the BSA is deeply troubled by the fictional nonsense of "eternal make good" that QRC promulgates in order to take water from existing Queensland water users in favour of their multi-national masters.

- Lee McNicholl, Basin Sustainability Alliance Chairman

The *Queensland Country Life* has received a number of letters expressing similar sentiments as those above. We are unable to publish every letter on the subject but thank the authors for taking the time to put pen to paper to express their opinions.