



4<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Dear Sir,

I write this letter on behalf of BSA seeking a clear and definitive response to what we consider a very significant issue raising concern amongst the farming community.

Last week a major machinery supplier reportedly had a visit from a pipe laying contractor seeking information on the general weight of agricultural equipment operating in the area. They said they needed to understand the possible impacts this equipment could have on their pipelines that are buried only 600mm deep. The pipe laying contractor said that because of the excessive weight of agricultural equipment it could be necessary to prohibit farmers from driving over these gas pipe lines.

The agricultural supplier immediately contacted the Basin Sustainability Alliance because he could see a massive problem looming for modern agriculture. Prohibiting farmers from carrying out their normal farming operations would no doubt be met with absolute determination and resistance.

I think it is extremely important to note that the farming industry has witnessed significant changes over the past 20 years in regards to machinery size and farming techniques and the reality is no one could have foreseen the scale of these changes and advancements. Subsequently it makes it impossible to predict what we will need to do in the years ahead to maintain competitiveness with our international counterparts and also to remain economically viable.

Farmers' futures must be protected and we must never be limited by what we currently use, or the way we operate today. We don't believe this is an unreasonable request when you consider that the CSG industry has not guaranteed that it will only retain its easement for 25 years and openly states how technology and techniques have progressed, and continue to do so.

With this in mind we believe that pipelines really need to be buried at a depth that ensure that farmers are not hindered or restricted in their future farming operations. While the upfront costs may be more it also means greater pipeline stability, and then when it comes time to rehabilitate, some landholders may be satisfied to leave the pipeline infrastructure underground when gas extraction is complete.

If your company is calling for tenders from pipe laying companies, we need your guarantee that these companies' plans will not result in farmers being banned from operating certain machinery on their own land. We believe that even the suggestion of this kind of practice is



a major step backward for your industry and if not resolved immediately, suspect it will instigate further divide between the farming and mining sectors.

We look forward to your imminent response.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Hayllor', is written in a cursive style.

Ian Hayllor