

## **ABC Capricornia, Rockhampton**

Mornings: 10 February 2012 08:50AM

Compere: Kate Leahy

Leahy asks listeners how comfortable they feel with coal seam gas. Leahy plays an excerpt from an interview with Greens senator Larissa Waters, who yesterday called for a new senate inquiry into coal seam gas across Australia. She says that the impact of coal seam gas in the Murray Darling Basin has been investigated; however, the issues extend across the whole country. Leahy is joined by Scott Prasser, Professor of Public Policy at the Australian Catholic University. Prasser explains the process for calling an inquiry within the Senate. Prasser says that the Government does not have the numbers in the Senate to drive issues, which puts the Greens in quite a powerful condition. Prasser says that this subject is not a simple 'LNP vs ALP' issue. He questions whether a senate committee is the most appropriate mechanism to investigate and whether it is independent enough. Prasser says that all the parties are 'playing politics'. He says that the Greens are trying to test the 'green' credentials of the Government, whilst at the same time pushing the LNP. Prasser says that the findings of a Senate inquiry are not binding and that sometimes governments are very slow to respond.

### **Interviewee**

Scott Prasser, Professor of Public Policy, Australian Catholic University.