

From: [Brenda van-Vegchel](#)
To: [biofuels](#)
Subject: Ethanol Mandate
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I read an article written by Derek Eamus – The Drum posted on 18 June 2015 titled, “Declining groundwater is a big problem for Australia”. This report states, “The loss of groundwater stores poses serious threats to humans that need it to drink, crops that are irrigated with it, and natural ecosystems that rely on it for their survival. That’s why a new NASA study is cause for concern, particularly in a dry country like Australia.”

I have been given some statistics (I don’t have the source unfortunately but a good researcher should be able to confirm or deny these statistics) comparing the water cost of producing Ethanol with the water cost of producing Methane (CH₄) through regular gas drilling or Coal Seam Gas exploration.

When producing Methane it takes 38 litres of water to create one megawatt hour of power. For the same one megawatt hour of power to produce Ethanol it takes between 32,000 and 370,000 litres of water to produce it.

We should be looking after the environment because it is the right thing to do, but we aren’t looking after the environment if we are using other resources (water) at an excessive rate to produce energy to reach some invented “green” target. If we want to be “green” we have to reassess our reasoning for going “green” and undertake a cost benefit analysis.

If the ultimate cost is water then it may cause more problems than it’s worth to pursue green energy just to be one of the in crowd seeking a “green” future that isn’t sustainable. It can’t possibly be a green future or a sustainable future if our water supply is depleted and it is already at risk.

Another statistic that he was provided with is that it takes between 3-5 million gallons of water to water a golf course every 25 days yet we knowingly accept this and still insist on depleting our precious water supply whether through using mega gallons of water to placate a few or to produce Ethanol instead of Methane.