Re: Country Life edition Thursday February 15, 2024, Headline on page 2, GAB fight heads to court.

Agforce's action of applying to the National Farmers Fund to underwrite a federal court action to stop liquified carbon dioxide waste being injected into the Great Artesian Basin is highly commendable.

I believe Agforce's action of ensuring preservation of this pristine asset of our land, the Great Artesian Basin, should be supported by every Australian.

Carbon Dioxide when dissolved in water, and especially into the waters of the Great Artisan Basin, changes the safety of its water for human consumption and livestock.

Our western towns depend on this water for their town supplies. Changes to this body of water will affect the ecology of life below, on the surface and above.

The Great Artisan Basin covers 1.7 million square kilometres, one-fifth of the Australian Continent. To allow its desecration by disposing the planet's toxic gas into this ecological reserve continues the destruction of this world. This action joins the already excess quantities of this gas which is destroying the ozone layer and resulting in increasing the temperature of this planet.

The safe disposal of this gas is the responsibility of the companies the Government have licenced to extract the gas from fossil fuel reserves.

This gas should be converted by an inert state through a process which is readily achievable through modern technology. Governments have the responsibility to ensure that the environment is protected, and toxic gases and waste are rendered inert at the end of the production process.

It would be an irresponsible action to allow this company, or any company, to proceed with this destructive action.

Yours sincerely

Bishop Michael McCarthy DD BAppSc MA Dip Theology Catholic Bishop of Rockhampton