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Under pressure

A BIT of a brawl is intensifying in Queensland between the run-away coal seam gas (CSG) proponents and enthusiasts behind the underground coal gasification (UCG) concept.

Talk is that Queensland Gas chief **Richard Cottee** started stirring the pot when he plugged CSG over UCG in the Government's mind, much to the chagrin of the UCG brigade.

UCG has now fired back, arguing there can be co-existence while writing to **Premier Anna Bligh** and forming a working group of local companies to boot.

Linc Energy, Carbon Energy, MetroCoal, Liberty Resources, Roc Oil Co and Cougar Energy have formed the UCG working group to get the message across to government that their sector can provide both badly needed royalties and employment.

The battle comes on the eve of Cabinet's expected consideration of a policy solution to the issue of overlapping petroleum tenements next week.

"We are concerned that the mechanism being considered by your Government will not support the development of a UCG industry but will, in fact, destroy it," they wrote to Bligh.