

**Submission
No 78**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

Name: Ms Vicki Bourke

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Please accept this submission to the Inquiry into Energy Supply and Sustainability in NSW.

Thanks for the opportunity to submit to this inquiry.

I live in Narrabri and our region wants the opportunities that renewable energy and diversification can bring, however, it needs to be closely regulated and inspected frequently to make sure there is no damage to our environment.

Although it is crucial that there is strong public investment and policy support from the government, however, there needs to be sensible and true investigations into what if any problems can occur and the mitigation of such problems, not just a white wash to sell the public.

I'd like the Committee to hold a public hearing for this inquiry in our region.

I'm concerned because mining and CSG is putting our water resources at risk. I am worried that the mines and Gas are putting too much pressure on the artesian/ground water and all of our domestic bores are at risk, the fact that the water is being bought by the mines means that any available water would be hotly contested in a purchase situation and the mines will always be able to throw a lot of money at the sellers and beat the farmers when the farmers are unable to make any money on their properties to be able to afford to buy the water at the higher prices because of the drought and no- one can predict how long this drought will go on and no-one thing can fix this, but if the ground water dries up from over using it in the mining situations or it gets damaged by the gas situation, we are all at risk of not even having enough for normal living, let alone for stock and crops if necessary, this is an awful situation and does not seem to be sustainable in the long term

The Maules Creek coal mine has been buying up ground water and paying triple what local farmers can afford, making the situation even worse for families already facing enormous drought pressure.

Santos has already polluted water on a number of occasions as part of the Narrabri CSG project, and if approved, the 850 well production project would put the recharge zone for the Great Artesian Basin at risk and produce vast amounts of toxic salt waste

I want clean and affordable renewable energy and job opportunities for our region that doesn't sacrifice our rural communities, groundwater and public health.

Thanks

Vicki Bourke

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