

**Submission  
No 784**

## **INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS**

**Name:** Mr Martin Kuhn

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The Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find this letter my submission to the ***Inquiry into Coal Seam Gas.***

**I object to Coal Seam Gas industry.**

We have a Government that, on one hand, is implementing a Carbon Tax to “address Australia’s contribution to the global warming problem” in which the methane gas emissions generated by the livestock industry was going to be taxed because of the greenhouse gasses it produced.

On the other hand, the Government’s, both Federal and State, seem to be quite supportive of a whole new industry, Coal Seam Gas – METHANE PRODUCTION. Methane is 20 times more greenhouse potent than Co2 over a 100 year timescale which pushes up its carbon equivalent footprint. If it is turned to LNG for export it is even worse because around 10% of the gas is used to liquefy the gas in the refrigeration process.

I am also offended by the scant regard the Coal Seam Gas industry has for our most precious resource, fresh water.

Not only does the extraction process extract copious volumes of underground water from the Great Artesian Basin (predicted by the National Water Commissioner to be equivalent to 300 gigalitres per year) they also contaminate the natural water resources in the process. Without a thorough Water Study to look into connectivity of the aquifers, how *can the CSG industry guarantee* that there will be no cross contamination. The CGS industry simply doesn't know but will state belligerently that it won't happen. They plan to bring huge volumes of brackish water to the surface, which if it doesn't mix with surface water, will eventually evaporate and the contaminated particulate matter be carried in the air to put at risk anywhere the atmosphere takes it. Then there are the huge volumes of salt left behind to deal with.

The cocktail of hundreds of chemicals used by the CSG industry in the fracking process is also a major concern as it will mix with and contaminate to our precious water supply, our farmland, our families and our communities. If they pump the excess volumes of contaminated water back in to the aquifer that is as much of a concern. They may base that idea on the theory on "Out of sight, out of mind" but water travels with no boundaries and they can't guarantee the safety of any water after that for the Australian people.

In my opinion, it is not worth the risk to destroy Prime Agricultural Land and the Great Artesian Basin for an industry that clearly has no regard for either. Once ruined, you cannot rehabilitate it.

Yours faithfully,

Martin Kuhn

5 September, 2011