

**Submission
No 155**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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I have seen media reports, television programs and heard from land owners, all of which show this process as appalling and detrimental towards the fragile environment. The government is an elected one and our society is democratic, we deserve to have control over our land and our future. I am not in favour of Gas coal seam mining and i feel we should put the following in place;

A full moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling until the environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed.

Coal seam gas exploration and mining to be made subject to all relevant environmental legislation, including the native vegetation and water management laws.

The provision of standing to ensure that the community has full legal rights to challenge and enforce environmental laws under which coal seam gas companies are operating.

The provision of a right in the Petroleum (Onshore) Act to allow landholders to refuse consent for coal seam gas exploration or production on their land.

A prohibition on coal seam gas exploration and mining in important bushland, valuable farmland, groundwater aquifers, residential areas and public lands.

A requirement that all chemicals used in coal seam gas drilling or fracking must be assessed by the chemical regulator for use for that purpose before being approved for use.

Kind regards

sam mehan