Submission No 744

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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Date received: 5/09/2011

I personally object to such a huge mining industry having carte blanche to infringe upon the people of NSW by risking the contamination of their water and air. Without doubt there are alternatives to this wholesale destruction. Already we have seen the solar Industry quashed in this country. Researchers have had funding removed and the people who trustingly tried to adopt solar systems were betrayed and no longer encouraged to adopt a system that would have at least provided significant power to this state.

The law in relation to CSG mining must be changed to favour property owners to a much larger degree particularly those who have the ability to provide food security for Australia and the World. We cannot have our air, our ground water, our aquifers or our artesian basin jeopardized. Should this occur it is my belief that there will be an outcry beyond all your expectations. This is not imagination: it will occur as a natural outcome of people finally realising the full impact of the coal seam gas industry on their life and health.

The astonishing fact that the NSW Government does not receive royalties for 5 years and for the following 5 years receives a dismal percentage of the total production value just beggars belief. I understand that the NSW Government has received \$400,000,000 from just two of the companies that are exploring for coal seam gas. If this isn't a bribe, I don't know what is.