

**Submission  
No 228**

## **INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS**

**Name:** Mrs Kerrie Barnett

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As a member of the Southern Highlands Coal Action Group (SCHAG) and a rural, residential landholder in that area, I am writing to support the wealth of informed resistance to coal seam gas mining on all residential and productive rural land, and in particular to support the submission prepared by the Carooma Coal Action Group.

The dangers to the water table have been well described, as have the threats to human health

and livelihood from the use of toxic chemicals in the fracking process, and the permanent degradation of arable land. These three areas of concern, alone, should be enough to ring alarm bells; but we also have community issues of social division and economic problems of declining property values, to name but two more.

I would like to highlight the fact that mining of coal seam gas in residential areas and on arable land has a time frame that is in the 'forever' category: the results are permanent, irreversible.

Inappropriate and ill-considered mining of coal seam gas will endanger the quality and quantity of our food production, our health and livelihoods, both in this generation and for the generations that follow us.

I call on the government to recognise and act upon its responsibility to act in protection of this land and its people, to speak for our concerns as our elected representatives in a country where we enjoy the privilege of democratic process.

I appreciate the opportunity this gives me to speak freely. My request is this:

1. Please gather all relevant scientific information and legislate to protect citizens and landowners and ensure the permanent safe production of food in our precious arable areas.
2. Use these guidelines to advise and support the mining industry to be able to safely mine necessary resources in areas where people and agriculture are not affected.