

Submission
No 395

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Miss Vanessa Bible
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To whom it may concern,

I am writing this submission to express my deep concerns about coal seam gas mining in New South Wales. As I am sure you are aware there has been extensive evidence revealing the risks that coal seam gas mining pose to human and ecological health. The industry states that only 2% of all gas wells pose a 'risk', however that equates to many risky wells. As a resident of the New England I am particularly concerned about the proposed development in the Pilliga Scrub. The development proposes 1100 wells – this equates to 22 unsafe wells, which is a substantial risk.

Clearing for wells is also particularly concerning to me, especially in the Pilliga. 70 square metres is cleared for each well – that is an absurd amount to be sacrificed from NSW's largest remaining tract of semi-arid woodland.

Water (or lack thereof) is commonly quoted as Australia's biggest environmental problem – and yet coal seam gas mining has potentially disastrous consequences for our water. The practice of hydraulic fracturing, which has not been ruled out in the Pilliga, could potentially destroy fragile waterways. Many of the chemicals used in fracking fluids are not biodegradable – once we have polluted these precious resources we may never be able to return them to their original state. This is of terrible consequence to the agricultural industry, local residents, wildlife and vegetation, and future generations.

Please reconsider the coal seam gas boom before it is too late.

Thankyou for your time,

Vanessa Bible