

**Submission
No 824**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mrs Beverly Smith

Date received: 7/09/2011

7 September 2011

SUBMISSION TO NSW PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS MINING

We are situated under PEL 470, we ask that you preserve valuable agricultural land from the impending expansion of Coal Seam Gas Mining in NSW because:

- ☐ The scale of the industry will have huge detrimental impacts on rural landscapes, surface & groundwater water resources, communities and the environment.
- ☐ It threatens some of the best farmland in the State and will degrade Australia's food production base.
- ☐ Moree Plains Shire is the most productive agricultural Shire in Australia and supports a very valuable farming industry and associated businesses.
- ☐ There has been no public consultation in this area, only a NSW Farmers organised forum in Moree on 28 June '11 to which gas companies were invited.

Farming and grazing cannot co-exist with CSG mining:

- ☐ Evidence submitted to the Senate inquiry into Coal Seam Gas in Queensland shows that logistics of gas production wells on a farm with all the associated infrastructure, activity and movement excludes the ability to cultivate land or raise stock in the same area.
- ☐ The waste effluent water (brine, chemicals, acids, heavy metals) will impact soils ability to return to farm production after mining.
- ☐ Long term cross contamination to underground aquifers for water supply and Great Artesian Basin. Scheduled monitoring of both current and retired CSG infrastructure is non-existent as per comments from Eastern Star Gas at Narrabri Senate Enquiry (2 Aug '11).
- ☐ Multinational gas companies do not support local communities with their fly in/fly out workforce, their profits going offshore and compensation offered for access, business, social and community impact is pathetic in comparison to the value they extract.
- ☐ Rural communities under coal seam gas and coal exploration have had insecurity imposed upon them and all the health impacts that accompany possible displacement. Not a way to treat the custodians of land and food resources.

Future food supplies:

- ☐ State mining acts were enacted at a time when the true meaning of the word 'sustainability' was defined but not accepted. This is a different world where mining should not have primacy over food production; that is not to say that we do not need resource extraction but we need it under rules that favour a long-term human and healthy existence rather than short-term profit.
- ☐ Land for food production is the long-term resource that must be preserved at all costs - it is a limited resource, but a sustainable industry.
- ☐ Few young farmers are staying on the land, if they are excluded for 25 years (life of the CSG mine) all the knowledge and expertise of producing food and the back-up businesses will be lost.
- ☐ Quote from the Proof Committee Hansard transcript, Senate Inquiry, Brisbane 20th July 2011: "By 2050, there will be nine billion people on the planet; with 50 per cent of the world's population poor for water; there will be one billion people unable to feed themselves; 30 per cent of the productive land of Asia will be out of production, with two-thirds of the world's population living there—a great market for us—the food task will double; " This is a great opportunity for Australian food production.
- ☐ Retain our right to "individual freedom and private enterprise" so that we can cultivate, graze and manage our land and conduct business without encumbrance of mining, to continue to produce food, for this nation and the world, into the future.

We urge you to learn from Queensland's experience, use the evidence from the QLD Senate Inquiry and that which will be gained through this NSW Parliamentary Committee Inquiry, to prohibit Coal Seam Gas mining from the catchment of the Great Artesian basin and from productive agricultural land.