

**Submission
No 850**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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Honorable MLCs,

I share the great concerns of many about the impacts of CSG exploration and mining, especially the tens of wells envisaged, on our prime agricultural land (the areas of CSG resource are in many cases, eg Gloucester, Clarence Basin, Liverpool Plains major food basins), forest ecosystems (eg Pilgana) and aquifer and river water quality.

However in this brief submission I would like to focus on the issue of CSG in our endeavours to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I have the following concerns

..unknown and unstudied fugitive emissions of methane in leaks from wells, pipelines and from fracking into the aquifer and thence rivers and atmosphere, may well make CSG a far greater source of greenhouse gases than acknowledged by proponents

..the massive deployment of CSG fuelled power plants will greatly retard the development and deployment of the truly renewable energy systems needed. CSG power plant operators will not close their plants

prematurely when renewables are "ready" ..as they already are. The

"interim" argument is a furphy. In this regard I also note that Renewable power systems are already able to contribute to "peak load" through developing technologies such as Molten Salt storage. Another furphy. This is a brief summary of my major concerns I would welcome the opportunity to expand on them at the Committee Hearing in Taree