Submission No 49

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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Date received: 28/08/2011

It is wrong to rush through coal seam gas exploration for the following reasons:

- 1) We need a full moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling until the environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed.
- 2) Coal seam gas exploration and mining to be made subject to all relevant environmental legislation, including the native vegetation and water management laws.
- 3) The provision of standing to ensure that the community has full legal rights to challenge and enforce environmental laws under which coal seam gas companies are operating.
- 4) The provision of a right in the Petroleum (Onshore) Act to allow landholders to refuse consent for coal seam gas exploration or production on their land.
- 5) A requirement that all chemicals used in coal seam gas drilling or fracking must be assessed by the chemical regulator for use for that purpose before being approved for use.

I'm generally concerned for the following reasons:

- 1) Our agricultural land is already under severe stresses
- 2) Our water table is already under severe stresses
- 3) There is no long term energy sustainability policy in this

Regards

Harry Oshman