

**Submission
No 763**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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To whom it may concern

Firstly thank you for taking the time to read the public submissions regarding coal seam gas (csg) and its associated controversial extraction process.

This topic has ignited a hot debate within society, for very good reasons.

I am a 3rd generation farmer, at Tambar Springs, near Coonabarabran. We have been farming cattle, wheat, sorghum and other crops in my family for over 50 years. Never have we been so distraught at what the future prospects may have.

Eastern Star Gas, and it's planned 1100 (+) wells for the Pilliga, also plans to potentially bury a gas pipeline straight through my families property. The self mulching, highly dispersive (swelling and contracting) heavy clay soils that dominate my area would have to be the last place that would be suitable for a pipeline of any sort, as evidenced from the debacle from a local resident concerning a smaller pipeline from the Central Ranges Gas project.

The Pilliga forest is a recharge area for not just our region, but for the Murray Darling Basin. This forest was protected under Carr's Labour leadership, resulting in much hardship faced by local communities who depended on forestry- such as Gwabegar, Pilliga, Kennebri, Baradine etc. This hardship and struggle faced by many families in this region, was ultimately for the long-term protection of this important native forested area. To allow the highly destructive csg industry to undertake their work with the Pilliga, will be extremely rude, arrogant, and hypercritical of the Government, and a shame for the health of this vitally important area.

Eastern Star Gas CAN NOT, and WILL NOT give a guarantee that their methods will not harm or pollute the ground water (Great Artesian Basin). Peter Fox (ESG), told me at a community information night at Tambar Springs 6 weeks ago that they would do everything they could to protect the groundwater, but there was no guarantee to be 100% risk free. This is absolutely appalling that a corporation could be allowed to potentially cause massive and irreversible damage to our greatest community asset (GAB), so they can make big profits from selling the gas overseas. Pure madness!!!!

This area is already a high fire potential in the warmer months- what about the methane from extraction, and the extra industrial based activity occurring within the forest- surely this could increase fire potential...

We just don't know enough about the extraction methods used, the chemicals used, the potential mixing of highly saline/ heavy metal based deep water from coal seam with the precious GAB water and our questions and concerns are not being adequately answered by the industry representatives.

Also, what about the large amount of water needed for the extraction process, and the dirty water to be disposed of where? What will this do to the local environment??

Please consider placing a halt to this csg activity, until independent full scale tests have been done- hydrologically, environmentally and socially. The precautionary principle needs to be put in place with this situation, to enable our childrens children to enjoy the advantages of using the GAB sustainably, and to have a healthy environment to grow up in. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

Brett Sanders for the Sanders family