

**Submission
No 310**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
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To whom it may concern,

I am writing this submission letter to express my concerns and fears of the Coal Seam Gas Mining. It must be stopped. My family and I live in Lynch's Creek, Northern N.S.W and live on the "proposed "Lions Way Pipeline". Lynch's Creek is beautiful prime agricultural land at the base of the Border Ranges World Heritage National Park.

I am a third generation Dairy Farmer on this creek and if the Coal Seam Gas Mining comes through our area I am very worried for our water aquifers and land. This will have a rippling affect on all agricultural industry and will affect all living creatures if chemicals are injected into our Earth. So many examples of devastation have already occurred in Queensland - Tara, Dalby, Kingaroy, Gladstone and the list seems to be expanding due to the increase in extraction of Methane Gas.

I have been in contact with real people in Tara and Dalby and their healthy lifestyle has dramatically decreased since the Coal Seam Gas Industry has been drilling in their area. Debbie Orr of Tara quotes.. "My children now suffer asthma, nose bleeds and constant headaches"!!!! Chemical traces found in cattle and contaminated bore water. Why does the Australian Government continue to let this happen??? Why aren't there complex studies to investigate the detrimental affects of this crazy industry??

Why does the Australian Government continue to put our Agricultural land at risk for a 25 - 30 year expectancy of Methane Gas, when it won't be even used in our State, let alone our country. Once our waterways and land is contaminated it is irreversible.

Many questions come to my mind and Metgasco don't seem to be giving any direct answers.

- What happens to the value of our land? Elders in Roma have expressed that any properties in their area with wells on or nearby the property immediately drop in price by approx. 30%. And to date there have been NO recorded sales of land with gas wells or pipelines on them, so the value could be \$0
- What happens to landholders when land is unsalable because there are wells drilled all over the property and they have contamination of the water and land? How will they afford to pay off Mortgages when there is no income coming in and their land is unlivable or unproductive? Are the gas companies going to compensate those poor people?
- What happens when it floods? In the past year we have witnessed approx. 6 large floods. The soil in our area is high slip and erosion is a real concern as a farmer and landholder. If this proposed line comes through our area, it will criss-cross over our gullies, Lynchies Creek and Richmond River which provides water to all those along the pipeline, Casino through to Woodburn and out to sea. When it floods the force and velocity of the water is very powerful and abundant and I doubt any pipe-line would stay intact and not suffer from leaks which will also be so lethal to our environment. I don't want my family, animals or any of our community to drink deadly Gas with their water or cup of tea. Would you?

- How is the local council going to handle the extra traffic on the old Bridges and roads? Our road infrastructure will not handle a large increase in traffic. All the bridges are fragile as it is. Once again is it the poor public that have to cover the expense, through an increase in rates, the roads have massive pot holes in them already and Council says it has no money to continue to grade, they are dirt roads we are talking about?
- Why do the Gas companies have more rights than those that own it? Pushing their way on land when they are unwanted. Do they pay the Mortgages??? No compensation will cover a damaged environment. The gas companies method of clearing a 30-40 metre strip of land to bare soil is MURDER, especially when Landholders must get certification off Council Body to clear any land at all.
- Why are the gas companies allowed to go through the World Heritage National Park? Is'nt this area too delicate and what will we have left to show our tourists that create revenue for our town? These rainforests are the lungs of our environment.
- What about the Flora and Fauna that will interrupted by the clearing of land??
- How are communities suppose to put up with the constant noise of Pump Stations, Generators, Drilling Rigs and extra traffic that go 24/7?
- What about the dust from the extra traffic and the bright lights that need to be on during the extraction of Coal Seam gas mining?

I have talked personally to 90% of landholders from Kyogle to Lynch's Creek and they ALL strongly oppose to Coal Seam Gas Mining. There are many 'Lock the Gate Signs' in our Kyogle area. There have been several meetings and information nights which have created crowds of 50 - 300 people at different stages all against this industry.

I was born and bred here in Lynch's Creek and chose to move back here when I started our family so that our children could have the priceless upbringing that I have expericnced. We live closely to the land and depend heavily on our crystal clear waterways which we drink, swim, water our vegetation (crops and gardens) , fish and generally cherish our because water is life! We chose to live here for the clean, beautiful simple life with an abundance of water....not a gas land.

Thank you for reading my submission and please take every word that I have written from the bottom of my heart.

Yours Sincerely

Lesley McQueen