

**Submission  
No 847**

## **INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS**

**Name:** Mr Andrew Price

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# Submission for Opposition to Coal Seam Gas in Corndale

My name is Andrew Price and I own and operate, along with my father and step-mother, John and Sharyne Price, a farm located in Corndale 5km north of Lismore. The farm is a poultry meat chicken growing farm contracted to Ingham.

The farm has a yearly production of approximately 1,050,000 chickens, with the business turning over approximately \$800,000, the majority being spent in the local economy. We also employ two full time staff and three casual staff.

The farm uses approximately 5,000 gallons of water per day, sourced from an underground bore. This source of clean water, for biosecurity and cost factors is our business. Without this water our business would not be able to operate. Sourcing water from Rouse County Council would be cost prohibited and logistically impossible.

Arrow Energy has conducted test drilling at Bexhill and Numulgi. The company has approached several individuals in Corndale to site wells on their properties to produce coal seam gas. This concerns us greatly as the process of producing (i.e. fracking and the salt water produced) coal seam gas has the potential to pollute the water supply. Any pollution of the underground water will destroy our business. Another concern is the gas released (not captured) at the wells. All the poultry sheds must be well ventilated and it is concerning that the very air we use will be of danger to the welfare of the chickens and therefore detrimental to the business.

We are also concerned about the access rights that coal seam gas companies have over our property. As mentioned before biosecurity is a high concern due to the nature of our business. During the planning and on-going operation of our business, we have had to follow strict environmental guidelines relating to the commercial use of the land and the consideration of surrounding residential properties. All the poultry sheds are required to be greater than 400m from any neighbouring residential buildings, daily vehicle movements are restricted in number and all run-off water from the site must be filtered through a sedimentation area before reaching waterways. Whilst our business must adhere to strict environmental rules and regulations, the companies involved in coal seam gas appear to be exempt from such constraints. Why is it one rule for our business and another for theirs?

We find it difficult to believe the government would allow a large multinational corporation the what seem to be unrestricted rights to our land, for short term gains but with long term consequences to the local community and in particular our business and livelihood. The untried nature of the technology that is being used to produce the gas and its potential to affect our land and water is not worth the risk. Our food production business is sustainable and has a low environmental impact, it could be carried on for generations, but it could be destroyed in a few short years.