

**Submission
No 909**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Organisation: Shoalhaven City Council

Date received: 11/01/2012



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COUNCIL REFERENCE: 43091E (D12/1421)
CONTACT PERSON: Elizabeth Dixon

4 January 2012

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

**NSW Legislative Council Standing Committee Inquiry
into Coal Seam Gas**

It has come to Council's attention that the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 is compiling a report on the environmental, economic and social impacts of coal seam gas (CSG) activities, including exploration and commercial extraction activities, allowable under the NSW Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991 (the Act).

We apologise for missing the submission deadline as this proposal and associated issues have only recently been elevated by the community. It is hoped that the Committee will still accept Council's views on this important issue.

On 20 December 2011 Council considered this issue and resolved to:

- a) *acknowledge the widespread community concern about Coal Seam Gas activities;*
- b) *express concern that the short-term environmental impacts of Coal Seam Gas activities are not well understood, at either a State-wide or regional level;*
- c) *oppose Coal Seam Gas exploration in water supply catchments and respond to the Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Councillor Gordon Bradbery OAM, affirming support for this approach; and*
- d) *write to the NSW Legislative Council Standing Committee Inquiry into Coal Seam Gas and oppose exploration in water supply catchments, pending better science and understanding of the impacts.*

Thus it is acknowledged that there is strong opposition within the broader community to Coal Seam Gas exploration and extraction. Shoalhaven relies on its natural environment to support a thriving tourism sector, its agricultural industries and as a lifestyle drawcard. As the risks to the environment are currently not fully known, Council opposes Coal Seam Gas activities until the science and impacts are better understood, particularly in important water supply catchment areas.

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I look forward to the outcomes of this inquiry.

If you need further information about this matter, please contact Elizabeth Dixon, Strategic Planning & Infrastructure Group on (02) 4429 3491. Please quote Council's reference 43091E.

Yours faithfully

Rob Donaldson
Acting General Manager