

**Submission
No 794**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY ON COAL SEAM GAS
GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO 5
BY MRS ASHLEY & MR BARRY PRINABLE

We are greatly concerned about the initiation of the Coal Seam Gas industry in Australia for many reasons. We are amazed and quite horrified at the speed at which these companies are moving; seemingly as quickly as possible so that most people do not truly understand the dreadful implications of the consequences of this dreadful industry.

As seen in the documentary film "Gaslands" (begun in Pennsylvania USA), the CSG companies have had a disastrous and most negative impact upon most of the people, animals, water sources and the general environments, wherever it has taken place. Many animals have died, water sources have been contaminated and many people have suffered from such illnesses as asthma, headaches, joint pain, lung damage, ear ringing, peripheral neuropathy (brain damage lesions), poisoning, a loss of smell and taste, and a variety of cancers. The chemicals (BTEX etc) used are proven carcinogens. Queensland has just experienced terrible flooding. Can you imagine the chemicals being swept into our water sources, and permanently contaminating them (as the water flows for miles underneath the ground, including the Great Artesian Basin).

How can this industry, standing as it is without a full investigation, be even given a foot in the door!?

When I (Ashley) first saw the film in Taree NSW (February 2011), I was so shocked and saddened, it brought me to tears. To think that we could be in the same terrible circumstances as thousands of people are now experiencing in the USA, I find almost unbelievable. We have also viewed the ABC's "Four Corners" show, read a number of reports from a couple of organisations set up against CSG mining, seen the Forum run by Mr Alan Jones in Ackland Queensland (4 August 2011), and continue to try to keep up to date with reports concerned this industry in Queensland and around the country.

We are dismayed at the lack of investigation by our governments, both local and federal, before allowing this kind of industry to proceed in our beautiful country.

You as our government representatives are meant to *protect* us from this kind of wanton almost a 'rape & pillage' mentality! It is truly scary.

We hope that this inquiry will lead to a complete moratorium well beyond December this year of any further progress by any company, until all facts can be fully investigated and understood.

Australia could be the biggest most successful food bowl in the world!! We have some of the best agricultural land in the world, while there is such understanding of the need to grow food for the increasing populations of this planet, what kind of insanity allows this excellent opportunity to be squandered on the altar of GREED!! It makes no sense, when a wonderful chance of being able to export so many kinds of crops for years to come, to be given away for a temporary resource that will only benefit very few people for a very short period of time! And most of the gas/coal only goes overseas anyway – not even benefiting the majority of Australians!

A reliable source has said that if we are not careful, we will be importing all our food within four years! What kind of craziness is that?

What is the rationale that on the one hand, we are being told we need to cut back on our green house gas emissions when this kind of industry does exactly the opposite?? Are we going to have to pay a carbon tax to cover the mess this industry will make or is it to pay for the millions being wasted on illegal immigrants coming into this country?

We ask that our children's and grandchildren's futures be taken into account. We have a wonderful inheritance that shouldn't be sold for 'a mess of pottage'. We are meant to be proper stewards of our environment. We ask that reason takes over and that this industry is stopped in it's tracks, before any permanent damage occurs. And there is no doubt that if CSG mining does get the approval, there will be no going back and it will be a 'lose-lose' situation for our country.

Australia has a number of other natural sources of energy that ought to be explored, such as solar panels for every home in the country.

Please bring back proper governing and right thinking, so that we all may sleep better at night and enjoy the vast riches this country offers.

This is only a brief letter. There is so much more to say, however I think you get the message. "NO to Coal Seam Gas".

Thank you for your time and this opportunity.

Ashley & Barry Prinable