

**Submission
No 508**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mr Stephen Maunder

Date received: 7/09/2011

I am writing this as an affected and very concerned landholder in the Willala district of north west NSW which is 25km south west of Boggabri, hugging the Pilliga State Forest. It is an absolute disgrace that our elected government has allowed Eastern Star Gas and Santos to proceed as far as they have to date. The potential ramifications are enormous. The extraction of coal seam gas and the proposed Narrabri-Wellington pipeline will not only disrupt the way we live and potentially affect the viability of our business, but it will also impact on:

1. the flora and fauna around the well sites, roads and other infrastructure.
2. Increase the risk of water contamination in the surrounding aquifers which could affect the quality of our stock and domestic water supplies.
3. The area is known for its potentially disastrous bushfires in the summer season. Having gas wells and pipelines dotted throughout the area will make this an even more volatile situation.

As a landholder in the area I find it unbelievable that the "red tape" and government protocols we as primary producers have had to deal with in the past just to clear a few trees seem to not matter an ounce when it comes to these companies being able to clear where necessary in order to facilitate their activities. And all to send 90% of the gas overseas. I urge you to put a stop to this uncontrolled exploitation of our natural resources and put first for a change the efficient, family owned farming operations such as ours which are helping to feed the world's growing population.