

**Submission
No 750**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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The environmental and health impact of CSG activities including the:

- ▲ a. Effect on ground and surface water systems:
mining represents a serious threat to water resources due to:
 1. The potential for drawdown and contamination of groundwater aquifers, including potential for major cumulative impacts on the Great Artesian Basin.
 2. The pollution of surface water systems from 'waste' water, leading to serious reductions in water quality.
 - 3. Water quality is irreparable and consequently **any** possible contamination cannot be tolerated.
 - 4. The groundwater resource is not infinite and any groundwater use needs to show benefit to the Community.
 - 5. The effect of drilling of wells in areas of alluvial waters to depths over 1km is unknown. What is the effect of extra stress applied deep under the water table? How secure are shafts in areas of high soil movement? What tests have been carried out on the properties of the chemicals being used? under stress? Mixing with earth elements under pressure? On our farming property we are not allowed to put bores in alluvial plains yet the mining industry is given dispensation to ignore this, Because they drill below the water table – this does not make it safe , in fact the risk of fracturing the stratas increases and water table can drop. HOW can mining industry compensate farmer for loss of water ????
 - b. Effects related to the use of chemicals, **so far no comprehensive study on chemicals used and effects when combined with soils and rocks at depth under pressure**
 - c. Effects related to hydraulic fracturing, **again what will happen if layers deep under Great Artesian Basin are shifted??**
 - e. Nature and effectiveness of remediation required under the Act, **how can loss of stock and irrigation water be remediated?**
 - f. Effect on greenhouse gas and other emissions, **the loss of methane through leakage must be monitored and paid for.**
2. The economic and social implications of CSG activities including those which affect:
- a. Legal rights of property owners and property values,
 - The decline of land values must be factored in to Gas industry costs. Landowners pay rates while the Gas industry reaps the benefits. Make the Gas industry buy the land it ruins.
 - b. Food security and agricultural activity,
 - The idea that land used for food production and food security (an essential Australian requirement) will be subject to a cost benefit analyses with mining (which has no life sustaining properties) is indicating that the Government has Australians priorities wrong.
 - Sustainable land use requires that human activity only uses nature's resources at a rate at which they can be replenished naturally. Coal seam gas mining does not do this.
 - Farmers and landholders are best at maintaining the landscape and its' animals – they are there for the longterm. The CSG industry is talking 15 years. Then what will they leave? How will they be held responsible?

e. Local Government including provision of local/regional infrastructure and local planning control mechanisms

- Economic impact on Kyogle negligible as once wells are in, work will be managed from afar.

Water pollution potential to destroy Food and Tourist Industries

Road infrastructure currently inadequate with heavier use will become dangerous.

- Who pays for an industry to destroy roads ? Roads - the CSG industry does not pay rates on the land used, so where is contribution to local Council for road damage and maintenance?

3. The role of CSG in meeting the future energy needs of NSW

- Energy – The CSG Industry is sending most of its gas offshore not to benefit the local area. Our energy can be produced onsite (our large cattle farm runs on Solar Power) without the harmful and possible contamination issues rising from CSG.