

**Submission
No 760**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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We the undersigned wish to register our strong concern regarding coal seam gas to the New South Wales Government Legislative Assembly General Purpose Standing Committee No 5

We call upon the NSW government to introduce a moratorium on coal seam gas exploration and mining in this state until such time as we citizens would be satisfied that the adverse social and environmental costs of this industry to our local communities and existing rural industries, do not outweigh the supposed benefits to the rather abstract entity named the 'economy'

First hand accounts of damage to underground water supplies, our atmosphere and the soils of rural lands concern us greatly. Images of bubbling gas in streams, fire coming out of kitchen taps, tailing dams of poison salts sitting on prime farming land are hazards nobody should be expected to accommodate. We are deeply grateful to those people from more than 100 community groups of concerned citizens from all walks of life who have informed us of the dangers of this proposed industry.

We are genuinely scared about the damage coal seam gas extraction can do and nothing we have read from the mining companies does anything to soothe our fears. Obfuscation, spin and very few dollars are all they are offering to counteract community concerns and compensate for their profits. And now we hear they are funding a glossy advertising campaign! We need facts to be acknowledged. We need strong action on the part of our government to heed its citizens and properly investigate this industry.

Our concerns are also about the processes of government and seeming preferential treatment being offered to coal seam gas miners. Why should mining companies be given access to water denied to farmers for growing food? Australia is a dry nation and we can't afford to use water in the amounts required for this industry. Why should mining companies be allowed to cut down our forests for gas wells when loggers have been banned? It appears that our government is applying double standards in its efforts to participate in the euphoric 'mining boom' And when the boom ends?

We are concerned that the new government, without knowing the facts, in it's haste to get coal seam gas mining here, has allowed 40 major mining applications to proceed under Part 3a legislation which they undertook as a core election promise to dismantle. What sort of a slap in the face is that for people who voted for you on the basis that you would dismantle Part 3a?

In NSW there has been a honeymoon period of 5 years royalty free, to attract coal seam gas miners to come here. What kind of a policy is this? We don't want them and the government is desperate for revenue so neither group is benefiting from this arrangement. It only serves the mining companies. And we understand they are booming so what need do they have of this largesse?

NSW has survived this long without coal seam gas. Let's build a state economy on innovation and sustainable principles. Lets keep our farmlands, bushlands and aquifers for the next generations PLEASE!

Pip Rey and Peter Tierney

Peter Tierney