

Submission
No 629

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mrs Susan Cudmore

Date received: 7/09/2011

As I sit here writing this submission the sun is coming over the horizon spreading light over the beautiful Liverpool Plains. Green winter crops and canola form a patchwork backdrop whilst contented cattle grazing amongst the gum trees on the rich native plains grass are in the foreground. I have decided to write this submission from my heart. I believe that so often "the science" overrides the common sense of the story.

It is our legacy as farmers to leave the country that we are guardians of in the best shape possible. Future generations will have less arable land to produce food from to sustain the ever growing populations. This country I survey is under threat from not only coal seam gas but coal mining too. What comes next is anyone's guess. This land has supported generations of farmers, contractors, and town businesses. If coal seam gas extraction takes place this will all be under threat. No matter how the lobbyists put it coal seam gas is not a low impact energy source. The impact to our underground water is largely unknown. The USA coal seam gas industry has caused irreversible damage to water and land in areas of the States. We have more recently seen contamination to water ways in Queensland. Photo footage of dead trees and diseased land can be viewed in the Pilliga scrub. Where is the successful model of co-existence of farming land and csg extractions?

The reality is this land is NOT RENEWABLE. Once the underground aquifers are damaged there is no reversal process. If the water is contaminated or lost the future production of food will also be forfeited. Arable land in Australia is a rare jewel. We should be protecting it. Once the gas has gone what then?? You have to put some sense into this discussion. Please don't waste this opportunity