

Submission  
No 274

## INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

**Name:** Mr Terry Toohey  
**Organisation:** NSW Farmers Dairy Committee  
**Date received:** 13/09/2011

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13 September 2011

The Hon. Robert Brown, MLC  
Chair  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Brown,

**Re: Coal seam gas (Inquiry)**

The NSW Farmers Dairy Committee writes to firstly support the NSW Farmers submission to Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 Inquiry into Coal Seam Gas and secondly to give further information regarding the specific impacts of coal seam gas on the dairy farmers of the far north coast of NSW.

We as dairy farmers have strict regulations around livestock exposure to chemicals in order to sell the animals and milk that we produce. These regulations aim at ensuring that no harmful residues enter the food chain. In this regard, if there were to be a leak and fracking chemicals were to get into stock drinking water, the health and welfare of our animals would be compromised. Also, the contamination of the food that we produce would mean that our ability to access domestic and international markets would be compromised.

North coast water is also used for irrigation on a large majority of dairy farms to produce feed for cattle. If irrigation water were to be contaminated, it would ensure that the majority of dairy farms on the far north coast would no longer operate.

Other than the contamination of water sources, a number of additional problems could be expected. Developing industrial sites alongside our grazing enterprises exposes our livestock to a host of foreign chemicals which can potentially lead to food safety issues. The increased traffic of service vehicles and staff also increases the spread of weeds and diseases which can have serious productivity impacts.

We direct the inquiry to the NSW Farmers submission for further information.

Yours Sincerely,

Terry Toohey  
**CHAIR DAIRY COMMITTEE**