

**Submission
No 292**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Cr Mark Graham

Date received: 07/09/2011

GPSC5 GPSC5 - Submission on Coal Seam Gas Mining in NSW

From:
To:
Date:
Subject: Submission on Coal Seam Gas Mining in NSW

To Whom it May Concern

I submit the following information to the General Purpose Standing Committee No 5 Inquiry into Coal Seam Gas (CSG) Mining in NSW

1. Mining of CSG in areas of high conservation value must not be allowed.

This is because the fragmentation and pollution generated by CSG mining leads to a loss of biodiversity and impacts upon the surface and groundwater quality and catchment values. In particular CSG mining in the Clarence-Moreton and Gunnedah Basins is already having an unacceptable impact upon areas of international conservation value such as the Pilliga Scrub and the Bungawalbin Wetlands. These national conservation icons must be protected from destruction by CSG mining.

2. Mining of CSG across prime agricultural lands must not be allowed

Many of the states prime agricultural lands, such as the Liverpool Plains, are already being destroyed by a combination of CSG mining and coal mining. These lands are essential for providing food for our growing national population and to ensure food security in an increasingly uncertain global context. Any degradation to such lands is unacceptable, these lands will feed us sustainably for many centuries, the profits from CSG mining are limited to a decade at the most. After this the land is not able to produce food.

I urge the NSW Government to prohibit CSG mining in high conservation value areas and prime agricultural lands. This will ensure that our future is more sustainable than if we allow the destruction of these conservation and food growing lands for short-term profit.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Mark Graham
Coffs Harbour City Council