

Submission
No 322

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL

MERVYN DE VRIES

5.9.11

COAL SEAM GAS INQUIRY

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE

DEAR SENATORS

THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE COAL SEAM GAS INDUSTRY IN NSW CONCERNS ME LIKE NOTHING ELSE, IT IS SO TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE FROM SO MANY VIEWPOINTS IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE IT IS EVEN BEING CONSIDERED.

THE LIKELY CONTAMINATION OF BOTH GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATERS; THE LOSS OF GOOD AGRICULTURAL LAND TO GAS INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE DEPLETION OF GROUNDWATER NEEDED FOR OUR FOOD SUPPLIES; THE RISKS TO HUMAN HEALTH AND LIVESTOCK FROM CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION OF WATER AND TOXIC GASES VENTED FROM GAS WELLS; INDUSTRIALIZATION OF THE RURAL LANDSCAPE AND ASSOCIATED LOSS OF LAND VALUE; AS WELL AS IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY WITH INCREASED LOSS AND FRAGMENTATION OF VEGETATION, ARE JUST SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCED IN QUEENSLAND AS A RESULT OF THE COAL SEAM GAS INDUSTRY.

SOME OF THESE OUTCOMES MAY BE PERMANENT AND IRREPAIRABLE, PERSISTING LONG AFTER THE GAS SUPPLIES ARE EXHAUSTED AFTER PERHAPS 30-40 YEARS IF ALLOWED TO CONTINUE THIS PURSUIT OF SHORT TERM PROFIT MAY GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS ONE OF THE WORST ACTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION EVER COMMITTED IN AUSTRALIA.

THERE ARE REAL ALTERNATIVES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS; WITH SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS, WITHOUT DANGER OF INFLECTING ANY OF THE MULTITUDE OF REPERCUSSIONS THAT COME WITH THE CSG INDUSTRY.

YOURS FAITHFULLY,