

**Submission  
No 694**

## **INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS**

**Name:** Ms Helen Gibbons

**Date received:** 6/09/2011

---

## Submission to inquiry into Coal Seam Gas

Ordinary citizens such as myself welcome the inquiry into CSG. It is necessary to put a stop to the mad rush by the mining companies to exploit Australians resources for massive profiteering. We are now being bombarded by their advertising campaigns, being persuaded that it is the energy for the future – clean natural gas! Australia's future energy must come from renewable sources, if we hope to survive on this planet.

In the granting of licenses thus far, politicians are guilty of ignorance of the true invasive nature of this industry as much as the rest of us. Coal seam gas mining is a major threat to our existence It must not be allowed to proliferate.

### Health and environmental impacts :

BTX chemicals, known carcinogens, will be released by the method of fracking.

Methane gas emissions will pollute the air.

Produced water ( toxic ) allowed to be stored in massive evaporation ponds because there is no means to date of dealing with it – a perfect recipe for soil contamination. Tony Burke's ludicrous solution was to pump it back underground. Equally ridiculous was his condition proposed upon mining groups to seal each and every aquifer prior to fracking. Aboriginal knowledge tells us that all the aquifers in Australia are interconnected. Pollute one and you pollute the lot.

Where's the proof that our water will not be contaminated? Should we be putting such a precious resource to ransom? Even in the best- case scenario, our underground water will be seriously depleted by the masses of water required by the industry to operate.

## Economic and social impacts

The mining companies have been granted exploration licenses en masse without "the people" having any say. Arrow Energy turned up in our valley, sought out one ill-informed farmer, gained access to his property, did exploratory drilling without any consultation with surrounding property owners. By stealth the mining companies have infiltrated our communities with a complicit Govt. Land owners need to have legal rights to prevent unwarrantable use. Legislate to protect farmers **before** granting mining rights.

We need to preserve all Australia's arable land precisely for food production. The 40,000 drilling platforms, spaced within 800meters of each other planned for our local area will seriously interfere with food production. Take a look at the mining companies mapping in Queensland to get some perspective on the extent of the invasion .

Lower land values on all affected areas seriously impacts on people's sense of justice.

At present, the mining companies are not even liable to pay for the megalitres of water they will require when fully operational.

The money that is to come from royalties is appallingly inadequate. The federal government should have taken a much tougher stance and stood up to all mineral resource mining giants. The finite resources belong to the Australian nation!! It is a disgrace to see such huge profits in private hands.

Metgasco admits that it is looking for a take over. Are we going to let China take control? Arrow energy has sold out to Shell Petro – China. 80% of the produced liquefied gas is going off shore. There will be no benefits to "the people".

## **CSG –MEETING FUTURE NEEDS**

Proponents for the industry say that CSG is the way to provide our future energy requirements. This does not have to be the case. Solar, thermal and wind can and must be our future source. Spain is showing us the way. Germany and China are moving rapidly to renewables !!!! Advances in photo-voltaic panels are bringing the costs down.

What Australia needs, is forward thinking leaders, who will embrace innovative new technologies that will not harm our land If we must have gas extracted, then let it be only sourced from the natural reserves close to the surface. Delving deep into the Earth in invasive drilling techniques may even cause earthquakes. Who knows?