

Submission  
No 519

## INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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Partially Confidential

22/08/2011

To the Members of the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St.  
SYDNEY N.S.W. 2000.

Dear Committee Members,

We look over one of the most beautiful landscapes in N.S.W. People who come here say "We never knew there were views like this out here".

There are around twenty other small land holders, who from one direction or another, look over the same area, because there is an area of flats at the centre. This is drained by several water courses, and part of it also floods. These water courses drain to Killabach and Cedar Party Creeks which flow into the Manning River near Wingham.

We have invested a lot in this property, both in the initial outlay and to improve the land. Money and effort.

If coal seam gas mining were to come to a property next door, all of the neighbours, and those in line of view of the site as well, stand to lose. Those down stream may also be affected.

Such an operation would pollute the landscape, our views, our peace and quiet, our lifestyles, possibly the water in these creeks and the river, and the local environment, slash our property values, (if you could get anyone to even consider living near coal seam gas), and greatly increase the traffic on the roads. If we were in town, we would complain to the council about a neighbouring project which impinged so much on so many people, and it would not be approved.

The impact on the community is already being felt here as rumours have been circulating that one neighbour has agreed to exploration. Whether or not that is true, we can see the heat of emotion that has been generated against that person. Pity help one who did not want to have C.S.G., but felt unable to put up a fight against the miner! I think that, somehow, they would have to leave the district.

It is vandalism to blight this beautiful valley with such an industry for the financial gain of a few, most of whom have big money and are probably not even Australians. One is reminded of the Wittenoon asbestos tragedy. That was one mine. This is all over the place. You can't trust anyone who stands to gain and then leave. Who will thank you, parliamentarians, in 2050 or even 2020?

If our places are to be ruined like this, then those perpetrators ought to pay everyone affected in the area to get places as good as they have and as close to as large a city as Taree (and also Newcastle), as this area is. Maybe if the profit was not so much one way, the companies wouldn't be so keen on ruining people's lives under the guise of benefitting state and country.

Like other ordinary people, the money we have put into this place came by hard work and saving. We cannot afford to challenge big companies or the government departments. Who is supposed to defend citizens like us? Surely it is our parliament.

Thank you for giving us a chance to be heard. May your decisions be wise, and appreciated long past the immediate future.

Yours faithfully,