

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Risks and Threats to Southern Highlands from Coal Seam Gas

Exploitation of coal seam gas creates unacceptable risks and threats to the communities of NSW's Southern Highlands and to the area's environment.

Our State law should be changed - the current law is a bad one because it favours short-term exploitation over long-term sustainability. A landholder should have the right to deny access to mining companies more interested in short-term gains than the sustainable value of well-managed agricultural properties. This law is creating divisions in communities.

Southern Highlands store water some of which is supplied drinking water to Sydney. Mining practices have the potential to damage and pollute ground and surface water. Putting water at risk to contamination by chemicals used in gas extraction would be poor government of a vital resource.

The Southern Highlands is a beautiful area. Mining infrastructure is ugly and imposes risks to farmland and bushland and their value.

I urge the Committee to favour the long-term management of the Southern Highlands' agriculture, water and natural environment over the short-term commercial exploitation of coal seam gas.