

**Submission
No 857**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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To whom it may concern

I wish it known that I object most strongly to Coal Seam Gas Mining (CSG) which has not only destroyed communities right across the United States of America but are inflicting the same damage in Australia. Wells have already been sunk in Queensland without any thought to the amount of damage occurring or to the well being or desires of the local communities.

My major concerns with CSG mining are:

- * The chemicals used in fracking are a definite health hazard and implicated in a number of serious diseases.
- * It lowers the fresh water table. The CSG industry in the Powder River basin Wyoming, USA, caused a 200m drop in the surface aquifer. With global warming and the many droughts occurring in Australia and other countries, this is a grave and unnecessary risk.
- * CSG mining draws contaminated water out of the coal seam, and can destroy surrounding soil. Australian soil is extremely fragile by comparison with other countries.

It is imperative that we have a moratorium on CSG mining, a Royal Commission into all impacts of CSG mining and a ban on fracking. It is time that governments in this country started protecting the rights and needs of its citizens and not the short term profits of mining companies.