

Submission
No 531

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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Date received: 7/09/2011

Coal seam gas mining, submission by

I'm concerned that this style of mining will lead to damage of underground aquifers due to contamination by chemicals used in the process of extraction and the puncturing of layers which may change the layering of aquifers and their potential use as water supply for as yet unknown reasons.

If aquifers are rendered useless for future use we are losing a resource more valuable than the gas which is extracted from it. Australia's climate is punctuated by periods of severe drought and this may become more common with climate change, we cannot afford to jeopardise the health of our underground water for short term gain.

I'm also concerned about the surface affect of many well heads and their associated infrastructure. The presence of the above will lead to compacted soils and problems inherent with this, they are increased erosion, weed growth, and decreased production due to lack of oxygen and water infiltration. The roads may also change the surface runoff patterns on a local level which may have the effect of increasing or decreasing water to existing vegetation, this can lead to the death of trees in particular those in the genus eucalyptus and Corymbia.

The well heads and roads also take up space which directly decreases the land surface available for production, many rural industries are not very profitable and any loss in production may affect not only the individual on whose land the mines are on but the local community where the individual purchases materials/services for their business.

Please complete a thorough study of this coal seam gas extraction industry to make sure none of the above issues I have raised will occur, in particular the contamination of aquifers.

Chris Moran
September 7 2011.