

**Submission
No 718**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Coal Seam Gas

Coal Seam Gas (CSG) extraction poses a serious threat to water resources due to:

- the potential for drawdown and contamination of aquifers;
- pollution of surface water systems from “waste water”;
- large volume usage for drilling and fracking.

CSG extraction will have serious social impacts due to:

- the practical disruption to farming and grazing resulting from the network of wells, pipeline corridors and access roads;
- the industrialisation of vast swathes of rural land.

CSG extraction will have serious environmental impacts due to:

- potential contamination resulting from fracking chemicals and toxic waste water;
- leakage of toxic methane and other gases during production;
- migration of methane into aquifers, wetlands and spring systems;
- clearing and fragmentation of native bushland.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1** A full moratorium on all coal seam gas exploration and extraction until the environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed.
- 2** CSG exploration and mining to be made subject to all relevant environmental legislation, including the native vegetation and water management laws.
- 3** A prohibition on CSG exploration and mining in important bushland, valuable farmland, groundwater aquifers, residential areas, closely settled rural areas and public lands.
- 4** The provision in the Petroleum (Onshore) Act to allow landholders to refuse consent for coal seam gas exploration and production on their land.
- 5** A requirement that all chemicals used in CSG drilling and fracking must be assessed by the chemical regulator for use for that purpose before being approved for use.