

Submission
No 489

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Name Suppressed
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Partially Confidential

My very brief submission aims to highlight the critical importance of not destroying the Northern Rivers area of New South Wales, and in particular, the caldera area that includes Mt Warning and the Border Ranges. This is such a pristine and bio-diverse region, and has already been determined to be one of the three World Heritage Areas in Australia. Why would any government want to destroy this environment?

My overall important points in this brief submission are that:

- There is a full moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling until the environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed.
- Coal seam gas exploration and mining to be made subject to all relevant environmental legislation, including the native vegetation, water management laws and world heritage determinations.
- The provision of standing to ensure that the community has full legal rights to challenge and enforce environmental laws under which coal seam gas companies are operating.
- The provision of a right in the Petroleum (Onshore) Act to allow landholders to refuse consent for coal seam gas exploration or production on their land.
- A prohibition on coal seam gas exploration and mining in important bushland, national parks, world heritage listed areas, valuable farmland, groundwater aquifers, residential areas and public lands.
- A requirement that all chemicals used in coal seam gas drilling or fracking must be assessed by the chemical regulator for use for that purpose before being approved for use.