

**Submission
No 405**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Ms Jenny Gibbons

Date received: 14/09/2011

Submission

Coal Seam Gas Inquiry Committee Standing Committee No 5

13.9.11

To The Committee,

I would like to state my opposition to Coal Seam Gas Mining in general for environmental and other reasons that I will state below. In particular I oppose this mining in my area for specific reasons and issues connected to this Local Government Area of Lismore City Council.

General Opposition

Lack of landholder's rights

Lack of proper compensation

Destruction of land values

Tree clearing and habitat destruction

Water security and safety:-

Damage to aquifers

Lowering of water tables which threatens agriculture, food security, jobs

Pollution of ground water and rivers which supply drinking water

Generation and disposal of waste water

Lack of research regarding safety of chemicals used

Air pollution

Light and noise pollution

Environmental disturbances

Specific Opposition

I am a rural landowner in a major flood affected area. Already there is exploration in similar environments in my area. Heavy rainfall and regular flooding in this Far North Coast Region makes managing the road system and environmental erosion a major issue. The huge impact of heavy vehicles from CSG mining would greatly impact our already poorly maintained rural roads resulting in increased danger to motorists as well as inflicting an increased financial burden on ratepayers and local councils who are responsible for a majority of the rural roads. Councils are already struggling in this region especially with high unemployment and high percentage of low income population. Therefore CSG mining would further disadvantage an already disadvantaged population, increase road hazards and degrade the environment.

Like many residents in this area I chose to live here for the natural environmental amenity, and to preserve and restore it. Peace and quiet are essential to my mental, physical and emotional health. My rural location being in a major flood affected area, despite the inconveniences entailed, I thought would guarantee no further development. Certainly Council does not allow development in these flood areas. However, the lack of rights that

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land owners and Local Government have to refuse entry and refuse mining undermines (literally) any security in this respect.

I run my counseling business from home. The amenity of privacy and tranquility is a necessary requirement for my practice and makes it possible for me to continue working past retirement. It means I don't have to travel to work, pay for petrol and car maintenance, or pay for a practice room, none of which I would be able to afford. Therefore, as a consequence of CSG mining I would have to give up my business practice if there was mining activity close by, let alone on my property, due to noise pollution.

The importance of maintaining my personal lifestyle may seem insignificant in when compared to the imperative of anything that supports economic growth, but I belong to a significant proportion of the population that have moved or continue to live here for 'lifestyle' reasons. As citizens we have the right to have our lifestyle and our land rights protected, and to live in a safe, unpolluted environment.

The economy of this region is dependent to a significant degree on Tourism, because of its unique environment. The expanding Tourism Industry here would be ruined if the beautiful hills, forests and streams were replaced by an industrial, ugly, noisy landscape. What about our rights to regional economic growth?

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Your Faithfully
Jenny Gibbons