

**Submission  
No 736**

## **INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS**

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I have a scientific background and a network of contacts with expertise in the likely impacts of coal seam gas on water bodies and the environment. I strongly oppose the development of coal seam gas - especially while State and Federal Government policies are killing the emerging sectors of solar and wind power.

Coal seam gas is overwhelmingly likely to have severe and irreversible impacts on ground and surface waters, soils and human health. The benefits will flow largely to the gas companies and the gas will be exhausted within a generation.

If it's a question of jobs, then renewable energies offer the prospect of long-term jobs. Development of coal seam gas is against Australia's national interest. The Government is obliged to act in our national interest. Therefore there should be, at the very least, a 12 month moratorium on all coal seam gas exploration and development.

The Victorian Government has moved to make it possible for one single person to veto a wind farm, despite any credible evidence for negative impacts. Tens of thousands of people oppose coal seam gas development in the Illawarra; and the evidence for harmful impacts of coal seam gas is mounting. It is obscene that the objections of so many should be ignored.