

**Submission
No 211**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 4/09/2011

Partially Confidential

Our property is situated on the Manning River at Mount George. We have seen the damage done by coal seam gas (CSG) mining in other areas. If CSG mining is carried out in the Manning Valley it will have the following serious adverse affects to the region:

- CSG is known to contaminate ground water. This would have a devastating effect on our farming and residual properties because:
 - Ground water is used to fill our dams for the stock watering.
 - Ground water is used to water our orchards and vegetable garden.
 - In times of drought we can pump water directly from the Manning River to replenish our drinking water tank.
- CSG is known to lower the water table. Over time, this will cause trees to die as they will no longer have their roots going into the water table.
 - The dying trees will cause a loss of habitat for the many bird species in our area.
 - Dead trees and shrubs will lead to soil erosion as in heavy rains as the root system would no longer hold the top soil together.
- CSG uses settling ponds. Due to the frequent high rainfall over a short period of time, the settling ponds will overflow and contaminate the surrounding areas.
- CSG will have an adverse effect on tourism and farm related businesses. The Manning Valley is a beautiful and pristine area. By allowing CSG mining, the landscape would become unsightly with well heads, pipe work corridors and settling ponds dotted over and spoiling the countryside. Tourists will not want to come here anymore. Potential new businesses and residents will not be attracted to the area and will go elsewhere. Residents and retirees will move out of the area to a safer more ecologically friendly region.

We urge you to think beyond the revenue raised by CSG mining in the short term and consider the long term effects on nature, human lives, our livelihoods, and on the future generation.

Ask yourselves: once the farm land has been ruined and the rivers have been polluted, who will feed the nation? We can't eat money.

Therefore we strongly oppose any CSG in the Manning Valley.