

Submission  
No 265

## INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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6 September 2011

The Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
Parliament House  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By Fax to: (02) 9230 2981

Dear Sir,

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
Inquiry Into Coal Seam Gas**

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this very important debate.

Coal seam gas exploration and production is an issue which is uniting communities nationwide in their opposition to this most inappropriate use of land.

A complete moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling should be immediately implemented until such time as all the environmental, social and health impacts have been independently assessed.

Notwithstanding the perceived short term economic benefits of this rapidly expanding industry, the overriding consideration must be the long term sustainability of our nation and the health of its people.

Issues of food security and affordability, together with access to a reliable, clean water supply are currently causing unrest in other parts of the world. We, in Australia, presently have access to plentiful food and clean water: we should not be prejudicing these most critical of assets.

- Hydraulic fracturing utilises large volumes of water and has the potential to seriously contaminate and damage aquifers, watercourses, wells, springs and the like.
- Productive agricultural land could potentially be contaminated by salt or toxic chemicals or otherwise rendered unusable because of mining activities.

The processes used in coal seam gas production are little understood and have the potential to cause untold damage to the health and viability of the population at large.

Please let us adhere to the precautionary principle and place health and wellbeing above corporate profit.

Yours faithfully

Penelope and Peter Teerman