

**Submission
No 126**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Ms Alana McPherson

Date received: 1/09/2011

To the members of the Committee on the NSW inquiry into Coal Seam gas Mining

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Australia and the world to ask that you all focus very deeply on the importance of your task as the peoples representatives on this issue.

I am not going to introduce further facts in relation to the damage CSG mining will do to our water, land and our society as I believe the evidence is overwhelming and has been presented to you by many community groups, some of which I am affiliated with.

I write because I feel deeply the need to add my voice, to make you aware of just how much this issue is concerning the people of the world.

Water is life and short term political or monetary thinking is no longer acceptable. If you have been placed on this committee, you have been given one of the pivotal political roles that exist this century.

That power be returned to the people to decide for a healthy future beyond the quagmire of 20th century destructive thinking is essential. This is the issue that will show that the tide has turned and we will not be steam rolled by governments or multinationals into giving up our precious resources . I am but one voice in a loud clarion call to wake up and stand up for the peoples rights , not for the profit making capacities of multinational companies.

Below I have included 6 key points which I agree with wholeheartedly, as summarised by The Lock the Gate Alliance of which I am a member but not speaking on behalf of.

Additional to these points I add that the future energy requirements can be met by renewable energy ,we don't need to dig up more fossil fuel, regardless of what the propoganda machine like to spout to the contrary.

I thank you for your time and ask you to look deeply into your hearts and minds when assessing the evidence presented by those opposing CSG and with this approach I am confident you will make the right decision for us all.

This is the only submission I have ever made, which I believe speaks volumes for the importance of this issue for myself, my family and my community of Keerrong which is currently under threat from the Coal Seam gas Industry.

As noted above, in agreement with the Lock the gate Alliance, I ask for the following results from your inquiry;

1. A full moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling until the environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed.
2. Coal seam gas exploration and mining to be made subject to all relevant environmental legislation, including the native vegetation and water management laws.
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. A prohibition on coal seam gas exploration and mining in important bushland, valuable farmland, groundwater aquifers, residential areas and public lands.
6. 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.