

Submission
No 221

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 5/09/2011

Partially Confidential

The Director

General Purpose Standing Committee No 5

Dear Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to put this submission to you. I would like to express my dismay and concern at what is happening in the Pilliga forest ,the neighbouring Liverpool plains,namely the exploration,extraction and the building of a pipeline to export the coal seam gas overseas.

I would ask that the landholders have a right to refuse consent for coal seam gas exploration or production on their land .

The Petroleum [onshore]Act was not designed to cover the extraction of CSG and it's resultant problems.

My main and overwhelming concern is the potential to damage to the underground aquifers and the Great Artesian Basin all are under the proposed drilling and extraction site in the Pilliga.

So many issues here,I am sure that I will miss something out,I live out of Coonabarabran, my water comes from a bore, and I am totally dependant on this bore now, I can't emphasise how vital this supply is to people living out in the Western Slopes and Plains, I have lived in major cities for the last 50 years Sydney,Melbourne and Adelaide and have been on the receiving end of the Murray Darling Basin water supply there,or lack thereof during the recent drought.

I had no understanding until recent years of what it is like to live with an uncertain water supply.

Many farmers,who rely on good water must be worried also.

I therefore would ask that there be a be a prohibition on coal seam gas exploration and extraction and mining in important bushland,valuable and essential farmland,groundwater aquifers, residential areas and public lands.

And please could all the chemicals used in coal seam gas drilling and fracking be assessed by a chemical regulator for use for that purpose before being approved for use