

Submission
No 321

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mr Ken Harrison
Organisation: Western Catchment Management Authority
Date received: 06/09/2011

The Western Catchment Management Authority (Western CMA) is one of the thirteen NSW Catchment Management Authorities established in 2004 to work with local communities to better manage natural resources. The Western Catchment covers 29% of the State and is one of the most diverse areas of natural rangelands in Australia. The Western CMA is currently concerned about the expansion of the Coal Seam Gas (CSG) industry in NSW, even if hydraulic fracturing is prohibited. The Western CMA is of the opinion that further investigation of the impacts of CSG activities on natural resources, human and animal health and cultural heritage is required. While it is clear that there are economic benefits in the proposed expansion of CSG production, the Western CMA believes it would be advisable for the expansion of the CSG industry in the area overlying the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) and other areas of NSW to be delayed until further information regarding these impacts is available.