

**Submission
No 864**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Ms Miranda Mills

Date received: 14/09/2011

Dear Minister,

Thankyou for inviting feedback on coal and gas mining. Up till now, gas mining has multiplied without regulation, and in secrecy. But recently, the damaging practices of gas mining have been exposed. So, now, it would be expedient to head off a major battle between conflicting interests.

If gas mining develops unchecked, it will result in massive civil disobedience. It has been documented, that, if gas mining develops unchecked, it will result in massive damage, in far reaching areas: damage to the rivers and underground water table, damage to the land, soils, vegetation, pollution of the air with leaking methane, destruction of the natural beauty and tranquility of an area, decline in property values, increase in health bill for the population, damage to already existing industries... The economic losses and other losses to the people, far outweighs any economic gains made by Petrochemical China and the other overseas mining companies.

I live in the Tweed Valley where the possibility of gas mining and the granting of exploratory licences, should not even be considered. Tweed Valley is a rural and residential area of iconic world heritage significance, a unique and valuable biosphere where live a proliferation of endangered fauna and flora. Our very homes are threatened by the expansion of gas mining. Our community Vision for the Future of Tweed identifies the ecological value of our area as it's prime asset, with eco-tourism, small business, green industries such as organic farming, which are already established, as the direction of local economic growth and job possibility. Our way of life and future opportunities are threatened by the expansion of gas mining.

We don't believe the fabrications of the mining company's market spin. All over the world gas mining has been proven unsafe. The waters, rivers, land, soils,vegetation, humans, native animals, stock, fish, are all poisoned for decades into the future.

Our environment belongs to the people, not a bunch of billionaire business executives racing to get richer. The job of the government is to protect the Australian people and the land that is Australia, and not wheel 'n' deal with greedy money mongering mining magnates, who have no conscience. What is obvious to the people, is that our future livelihood is dependent on a healthy biosphere.

No, we don't want the ugliness, the noise, the trucks, the poisonous chemicals pumped into the groundwater table in our region. We are not satisfied that our Rights are being considered. The negative impact of gas mining far outweighs any benefits. Please subsidize Solar, instead. Please include environmental considerations and community consultation in the Strategic Plan and Regulations for Coal and Gas Mining. Please protect the Rights of landholders to carry on their business and their way of life. There is a growing groundswell of public opinion against gas mining that must not be ignored. A huge majority of landowners are Locking The Gate and not accepting bribes from the gas mining companies.

The only conclusion: coal seam gas mining is not worth the risks. Thankyou.

Yours Sincerely,

Ms. Miranda Mills