

**Submission
No 70**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mr Colin Scott

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As a concerned resident of Sydney, NSW, I am appalled that the NSW Government has allowed exploration for Coal Seam Gas regardless of any safeguards that would be in place for any other activity.

The damage that may be done to agricultural land and water supply should be sufficient to urge caution.

I would request the NSW Government to place a full moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling until the normal environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed.

My council will not allow me to cut a branch off a tree without some expert assessing the matter. Surely when we need to expand our food growing sources in the most healthy growing conditions, we do not need profiteering cowboys tearing up our land.

It would be expected that Coal Seal Gas exploration and mining would be made subject to all relevant environmental legislation, including the native vegetation and water management laws. Otherwise why have any laws at all. This exploration seems to verge on anarchy.

I ask for the standing to ensure that the community has full legal rights to challenge and enforce environmental laws under which coal seam gas companies are operating.

I also ask for 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.

I also ask for a prohibition on coal seam gas exploration and mining in important bushland, valuable farmland, groundwater aquifers, residential areas and public lands.

Finally I would ask 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.