

Submission
No 296

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Ms Carol Lillith Anderson

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I live in the Pilliga Forest, among picture-book flowers, birds and wildlife you only generally read about.

This area was designated 'environmentally sensitive' several years ago and logging was banned. Our community paid highly through loss of jobs and other incomes. We were willing to do so because of long term concerns and to ensure ongoing national and international access to a unique geographical area.

Coal Seam Gas exploration once again threatens our communities. It affects tourist incomes, growing as we publicize National Parks and other local attractions. It causes internal divisions, some people needing dollars from almost any source after years of drought. It destroys peace of mind, knowing that we have no rights to refuse CSG mining on our own land.

Communities are resilient, we will find ways round. More importantly Coal Seam Gas exploration threatens regional water supplies. It can be months between rains here. Bare land dries and blows away, clay dust. Most of us rely on bore water and it is deep and uncertain. There are 4 bores on this property, only one can be pumped, gently, a small aquifer, filling slowly. We're luckier than many, our water is clear, tastes good and doesn't poison the garden. Neighbours are grateful for less. We have no water to spare for CSG!

We live on solar energy, very simply, we will be adding a wind generator in time. Water is used sparingly and often, nurturing trees as it goes back into the ground. We accept short term personal discomforts because of a commitment to long term sustainability in this fragile country.

It is unbelievable that our thoughtful decisions and our daily lives could be overthrown by concerns for corporate profits. There are viable alternatives for energy production and we need to learn from other people's experiences with mining companies. Coal Seam Gas is not a reasonable option long-term, it simply seeks short-term profits.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.