

**Submission
No 470**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Ms Marion Riordan

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I urge this committee investigating Coal Seam Gas extraction in NSW to take into account the following points which are of enormous concern to me as a citizen of NSW.

1. A moratorium on the CSG industry is required until all of its impacts are addressed. Areas of impact include health, environment, safety and land-use conflicts.
2. A strategy for environmentally sustainable development needs to be designed - one that includes a transition to renewable energy as opposed to a maximization of coal and CSG production
3. The strategy should identify and EXCLUDE from mining areas of land with important natural resources or agriculture
4. There should be independent 3rd party review, determination and appeal rights for all mining proposals
5. There should be a detailed environmental & social assessment for EACH mine or gas application. This assessment should include climate change impacts and the quantification of social and environmental costs.
6. The exploration licensing and approval process should be made transparent - applications publicly displayed and communities notified and consulted prior to granting approvals
7. Legal appeal rights need to be available to challenge applications and their adherence to rigorous environmental and social impact provisions.
8. Landholders need to be supported regarding access via their land
9. Regional water studies should be conducted prior to granting exploration licenses or extraction approvals. For any activities that impact on groundwater Aquifer Interference Approvals (under Water Act 2007) MUST be obtained. All water extraction should require licenses and strict water quality must be maintained.
10. There needs to be a study of the CUMULATIVE impact of existing and proposed mining operations including proposed future variations or extensions
11. There must be regular thorough reviews of compliance with approval conditions
12. There is an urgent need for analysis of long-term costs and benefits of the coal and gas industry (over 100 years). This analysis should include ALL external costs - greenhouse, loss of aquifers, loss of biodiversity, loss of agricultural land, health impacts (human and fauna), impacts on other industries, employments opportunities and loss of social structure.
13. Fracking should be strictly PROHIBITED in CSG exploration and production due to the serious risk it poses to water resources, the natural environment and human health.

I trust you will take my concerns into your inquiry process as I have given this issue a good deal of investigative thought and am certain that these concerns are echoed by a wide number of people in the Tweed Shire and the greater NSW area.

Yours Sincerely, Marion Riordan