

## INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 6/09/2011

---

Partially Confidential

In the case of mining Coal Seam Gas, the uncertainty about consequences is huge and the worst-case potential for harm is enormous. The scale of planned development is so large that the wider community and all relevant regulatory bodies it seems have expressed grave concerns about cumulative impacts. There can only be one reason why the industry continues to forge ahead – money. Just because its there and its worth billions doesn't make this mining practice right.

The planned scale and scope of the development makes the whole question of impact more frightening and complex - the cumulative impacts are less predictable and potentially more systemic when environmental systems are subjected to disturbance on such a scale. Irreplaceable farmland, water resources such as the Great Artesian Basin and the health of our communities are not worth risking for the sake of gas companies, who are mostly foreign owned it seems, seeking a quick profit.

We must as a nation take a "no risk" approach to any mining development in Australia. The new gas rush should not be allowed to put at risk people's basic health needs.

In conclusion, the prohibition of harmful chemicals, the preservation of our water security and farming, the independent assessments and enforced regulations, the land owners rights to refuse consent of mining activities of their land and the protection of community and the environments health and well being – ALL goes without saying in a civilized society.

Therefore through this submission I am calling for an outright ban on the Coal Seam Gas mining in this country and fully endorse and respect the leadership and wisdom shown by France and other countries who have enforced a ban. Australia must start thinking and acting beyond its short term needs. We are truly blessed to live on this beautiful continent and must take a responsible stand now to be on the right side of history.

Thankyou.