

**Submission
No 659**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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1. Coal Seam Gas presents a major threat to our water resources. The cost of polluting or damaging the Great Artesian basin and other mapped and unmapped aquifers far outweighs any economic value this industry may bring.
2. Knowledge of Australia's groundwater systems is in its infancy, so there can be no certainty at all in the mining industry's claims that extracting CSG will not affect groundwater.
3. The technology used to extract CSG and store and treat mostly toxic by-products is unproven and the short and long term effects are not fully known. A long-term study is required on small scale CSG extraction to determine all effects.
4. When the life cycle of producing CSG is taken into account, per unit of energy released, burning shale gas produces between 120% and 200% of the emissions produced by burning coal.
5. The extraction of CSG requires huge amounts of water – water that increasingly will be needed to produce food or for people
6. Containment of the saline and contaminated water from CSG wells are a major environmental hazard.
7. The intensive system of CSG wells (ie 200-400m spacing) are not compatible with agriculture and have a destructive outcome on human habitation, the land surface and below the surface on groundwater systems, undisturbed aquifers, and geological stability.
8. The mining boom, of which CSG is a part, has many negative impacts on rural communities (eg drain of skilled labour, pressure on housing and local infrastructure)
9. An impetus for Government support is the potential CSG revenue to prop up Government debt for the unfunded nature of current and planned Government spending rather than reducing the size of bloated government agencies and eliminating wasteful spending by, and on, leaderless bureaucracy. Stop spending money we don't have!