

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

I wish to express my total opposition to any Coal Seam Gas Mining until this activity is proven to be safe and will not degrade Australian society, water or land. Examples of problems caused by CSG mining here and elsewhere will undoubtedly be presented, or should be researched, by your Committee. These problems have been documented and some of the evidence has even been presented to the general public by the media.

For example, Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith of the National Toxics Network holds grave fears about aspects of the CSG mining industry and the secrecy (commercially held in confidence) surrounding chemicals used in gas extraction techniques by mining Companies. Especially as this mining activity has used or caused known carcinogens to be released into the environment. As is evidenced by the permanent shut-down of a CSG mining plant in Queensland due to toxins found in ground water.

One CSG mining company has stated that they will not proceed with exploration without a 'Social Licence' from local inhabitants to do so. This is a commendable attitude and should apply, be required and enforced by legislation, where CSG exploration or mining is contemplated on fertile land or in populous areas.

The voting public will be watching the subject of CSG mining closely so please ensure that the outcome of your deliberations do not jeopardise our, or our children's futures for a short term quick tax fix. Also, to ensure overseas companies do not just give us the proverbial Judas Kiss while exporting gas and their profits home. And can the CSIRO be relied on to produce an unbiased report on CSG mining as this is being funded by energy companies?.

Your terms of reference and the examples given therein provide great scope for unbiased scientific evidence to be examined and subsequent 'hard' recommendations for effective legislation to be produced.

I sincerely hope that this will occur and that vested interests do not override your sound planning and good judgement.