

**Submission
No 308**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mr Rod Besier and Ms Robin Besier

Date received: 07/09/2011

GPSC5 GPSC5 - Parliamentary Enquiry into CSG in NSW

From: "Rod and Robin Besier"
To: <gpscno5@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 07/09/2011 12:42 PM
Subject: Parliamentary Enquiry into CSG in NSW

To Whom it May Concern

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

It is imperative that there be an inquiry into coal seam gas production in New South Wales because we feel not enough is known about this relatively new method of gas extraction and its long term effects on underground aquifers and waterways. It is not known whether this intensive method will have a dramatic affect on agricultural land production, water supplies to major towns and how its presence will affect tourism areas.

The Gloucester Region of New South Wales (3 hours north of Sydney) is only the second area to have approval by NSW Government to go into production of coal seam gas. Stage I was approved just before the election in March 2011. AGL has been approved to drill 110 gas wells and the company expects the equivalent of one Olympic swimming pool per day of this wastewater to be extracted across the field^[j] AGL Gloucester Project EA, http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/project-sectors/transport-communications-energy-water/pipelines/?action=view_job&job_id=3194

The Gloucester Valley is small in comparison to the Chinchilla region of Queensland where the Parliamentary Committee will be visiting. At present, this Valley consists of dairy and cattle production, along with Lucerne hay crops grown on the river flats, or lifestyle acreages. Unfortunately, further open cut coal mining is proposed in this same area (two are already in operation). Several properties have been purchased by Gloucester Resources Ltd, a coal exploration company which is preparing to submit a DA within the next few months. The cumulative effect of a third mine in the same area as gas, will completely change the Vale of Gloucester from agricultural to mining.

If AGL gains approval for the three Stages of production, Stage II will be extremely close to the township of Gloucester, therefore, not only will the town lose the scenic beauty, the rivers and streams will be under threat of contamination should flooding occur along the Valley, which is a regular occurring event.

The largest town which would be affected is Taree, which relies on the Manning River for the region's water supply. The Gloucester, Barrington and Avon Rivers, along with various streams, flow into the Manning River.

In conclusion, we sum up our submission to say that:

1. A full moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling until the environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed.
2. Coal seam gas exploration and mining to be made subject to all relevant environmental

legislation, including the native vegetation and water management laws.

3. The provision of standing to ensure that the community has full legal rights to challenge and enforce environmental laws under which coal seam gas companies are operating.
4. The provision of a right in the Petroleum (Onshore) Act to allow landholders to refuse consent for coal seam gas exploration or production on their land.
5. A prohibition on coal seam gas exploration and mining in important bushland, valuable farmland, groundwater aquifers, residential areas and public lands.
6. A requirement that all chemicals used in coal seam gas drilling or fracking must be assessed by the chemical regulator for use for that purpose before being approved for use.

Rod and Robin Besier

Email: