

**Submission  
No 475**

## **INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS**

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The Coal Seam Gas industry is reckless and uncontrolled. This is an outrageous situation and obviously disturbing and worrying for citizens of this country. It is clear there are health hazards associated with CSG mining - contamination of water supplies by toxic chemicals and contamination of the air by leaking methane gas which is more warming than CO2 emissions. Then there are the issues of the enormous amount of fresh water required and the salt water by product. Fresh water is and will become more precious in this dry land, yet CSG companies are allowed volumes of it in order to mine, and are then allowed to contaminate it. This is a disgrace.

One in four Queensland CSG drilling sites is leaking methane gas into the atmosphere, and yet this resource is being widely promoted as clean energy! Nothing could be further from the truth!

CSG companies are allowed to trample all over prime agricultural land, and private land holdings. This is preposterous. Citizens should have the right to disallow trespassing by anyone on their own land.

CSG companies have admitted they cannot guarantee underground water aquifers will not be contaminated as a result of the mining process. Woodside Petroleum's former chief executive officer Don Voelte has kept his company away from CSG mining because he knows and understands the dangers.

CSG mining is not the answer to a clean energy future. Instead it will destroy the landscape, prime agricultural land, underground aquifers including the Great Artesian Basin, and the atmosphere. It is only a matter of time before its toxic by-products contaminate catchment water supplies. It should be outlawed immediately. At the very least there should be a total moratorium and an independent investigation.

Let us learn from the devastating US experience with this type of mining. The way forward in clean energy lies with other sustainable methods such as solar energy, thermal power or wind power.