

**Submission  
No 691**

## **INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS**

**Name:** Dr Lutz Gaedt

**Date received:** 5/09/2011

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As individuals dependent on borewater in our business and creekwater in our house we ask you to include in all new legislation on this topic, mechanisms which protect the future water supply of our children.

Underground aquifers are connected and contamination of our groundwaters is a significant and real potential threat. All chemicals used in these processes need to be independently assessed for their suitability and potential threat and ability to contaminate both surface and underground water supplies.

Please ensure a moratorium on CSG mining and exploration licenses until independent environmental testing can assess the potential impact on the environment and our communities.

Please ban this process completely in environmental protection zoned lands and in prime agricultural zones.

Please legislate to ensure landholders have the right to refuse access to their land surface without having to resort to costly legal proceedings to ensure this basic right. Our family has owned our land for the last 3 generations and it should not be possible for anyone to access it against our will or create any negative impacts on that land either physically or through groundwater.

Please include in new legislation the right of any landowner or the Crown to compensation from mining companies for any environmental damage to their land or health effects in the future which can be reasonably attributed to the processes used in the mining or exploration processes. Such an inclusion may be far more effective in making mining companies take responsibility for the processes they are employing than any fines placed for non-compliance.

You are in the position to minimise the effects of this relatively new and unknown process on our water supplies, our rights as landowners and the health of our communities. Please use this opportunity well.

Yours faithfully

Chris Cherry & Lutz Gaedt