

**Submission
No 446**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Organisation: Camden Haven Anti Fracking Group

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Response to Legislative Council INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS
GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 5

From Camden Haven Anti Fracking Group (CHAFG)

Introduction

CHAFG was created in early 2011 in response to a possible threat of coal seam gas (CSG) exploration in the Camden Haven Valley in the Mid North Coast.

In December 2010, Pangaea Resources revealed it was carrying out an aerial survey of our region searching for potential coal seam gas sites. Since that announcement, the residents of our area have been at pains as to what action we should be taking to stop development of this polluting industry.

Our immediate objective has been to ensure that all landholders are made aware of the severe health & environmental impacts of CSG wells. The group included oyster farmers, fishers, tourism operators & farmers whose livelihoods would certainly be eliminated by any CSG activity in the watershed.

Anecdotal evidence in USA & Australia shows clearly that CSG has numerous environmental problems ranging from water pollution, both surface & aquifer, air pollution & damage to personal health. It is evident that extensive research on all aspects of CSG is required before any further exploration of CSG is allowed. Research also needs to be conducted into the claims by the CSG industry of the greenhouse gas saving by using CSG rather than coal to generate electricity. USA research has produced conflicting results on this aspect & so we need to conduct our own research including a review of the US research.

Oyster farmers, recreational & professional fishers & tourism will be unable to co-exist with coal seam gas as the region will be degraded into a toxic industrial wasteland.

CHAFG supports rapid deployment of renewable energy (wind, solar, wave, geothermal) & energy efficiency as the only solution to climate change. Gas should only be used as a minimal supplement to these, not as a major source to replace coal. We have all the renewable resources (sun, wind, etc) what is lacking is sufficient political will to overcome the vested interests of the existing fossil fuel industry.