

Submission  
No 387

## INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Name suppressed  
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Partially Confidential

## Submission regarding Coal Seam Gas

I am very concerned that current government thinking seems to be in favour of coal seam gas and making it too easy for the big conglomerates to extract gas over the rights of land owners, and with little thought for the future.

Please consider the long term issues at stake here rather than the very short term gain. My main points are;

1. Gas is a fossil fuel - reliance on any fossil fuels is short term and overwhelming evidence suggests that energy and resources must go into alternatives and cutting usage and reliance on power.
2. The minor potential employment and other short term benefits are grossly outweighed by the negatives; potential (probable) contamination of our most precious resource - the aquifer water reserves (we are a water catchment for Sydney), and the loss of our most precious long term asset - good agricultural land. We can live with less power - we cannot live without water and food - both of which are far more precious than gas.
3. Gas is non-renewable energy - water and agrarian land can be managed sustainably and indefinitely.
4. The probable damage and or pollution of ground water and surface water ( i.e. aquifers, rivers and dams) and also the issues related to the extraction and disposal of very large volumes of contaminated water from the coal seam. These we citizens will pay for in loss of life quality while the gas company will have made it's money - it's pretty simple to see the inverse motivations here.
5. The beauty of our landscape and the cohesion of our communities is priceless - landowners as citizens must be able to deny land access to a miner under NSW law.
6. The chemicals used in coal seam gas drilling or fracking have already been proven to cause serious long term damage and contamination. How can we as human be so incredibly stupid to think this is something we can keep doing?
7. Enough people in the industry have been disturbed at the environmental impacts to make the need for rigorous and independent assessment into the impacts of coal seam gas an imperative.

If none of the facts on the ground move you who are in charge of taking care to balance everyone's interests, at least use your intuition and common sense - the only benefit from coal seam gas is short term - very short term, and there is more to be lost than gained. Please consider the part you each play personally as decision makers in the environmental and social destruction that this will cause if you agree to it, or worse - just stand by and not act when you have the great privilege to hold power and use it wisely.

The greatest problems we have as humans, and therefore the planet we inhabit - is our short term thinking, our need to gratify ourselves, and our lack of wisdom. As leaders, you can work for the greater good, and it's never been more important that you be wise and thoughtful in your decision making.  
Thank you.