

**Submission
No 20**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mr Kevin Markey and Mrs Maureen Markey

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We would like to make the following comments:

1. We live in the foothills of the Border Ranges National Park which is a World Heritage listed area of pristine Sub Tropical Rainforest. World Heritage listing was sought by the NSW Government to protect this unique and pristine area from misuse and degradation.
2. Lynchs Creek Valley is fed by two creeks rising in the Border Ranges National Park and comprise of a high percentage native vegetation and well managed low impact grazing of livestock. The area has not been used for other high intensity forms of agriculture. The water courses are permanent flowing streams of crystal clear and high quality natural water with a good population of natural aquatic fauna. There are substantial aquifers of high quality ground water able to support both Agriculture and lifestyle.
3. We purchased our property 2 years ago because of the pristine nature of the surrounding National Park and the valley.
4. We live on the property, conduct a low impact grazing operation, and plan to construct a couple of eco lodges on the property to support the visitors to the Border Ranges National Park and the conservation values it promotes within the general public.
5. At the time we bought our property the searches we conducted did not highlight any proposed Coal Seam Gas exploration or a major pipeline development which are both currently being proposed.
6. The development of the CSG industry so far both in Australia and the rest of the world would indicate that the operation of this industry presents a very high likely hood of substantial degradation to our local pristine environment should it be allowed to proceed. Based on the performance of this industry to date it is likely that there will be contamination of both ground and surface water with gas components and by products as well as disruption to the agriculture and lifestyle of the area. The low density grazing model used in this area is totally sustainable from an ecological viewpoint but would be threatened should the inputs of soil and water be contaminated to any degree with the byproducts of the CSG industry. We are major food exporters and a large part of the marketing of Australian produce is on the basis of our pristine production environment. The potential contamination of the local environment to any degree would threaten the security of the food production in this area. Just ask the graziers of the South Burnett who still have their properties quarantined because of CSG exploration gone wrong. What about the leaking exploration wells locally at Bentley?
7. It has been shown many times over that eco tourism has the potential to generate much higher levels of sustainable income than limited life extractive industries such as CSG. A good example of this is Fraser Island in Queensland where studies have shown that the tourism industry generates up to 9 times the potential revenue of the logging industry it replaced. Eco tourists will not want to come to an area which has known contamination of petro chemicals and ugly pipelines running through a World Heritage listed National Park.
8. Please stop this industry from ruining our pristine environment and our homes. We don't have to look far in Australia or around the world to see what can happened when we ruin where we live. Preserve the conservation value of this area, support the existing agricultural enterprises in this area, and support the development of a larger Eco Tourism industry in this region and see it produce much larger contributions to the local and national economy than a relatively short term

dangerous extractive petrochemical industry. Stop the further exploration for CSG in this area and definitely do not allow a gas pipeline to be a blot on our landscape and our natural environment.

I look forward to receiving your feedback on this submission.

Best regards

Kevin & Maureen Markey