

**Submission
No 867**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mr Kevin Purdy

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I wholeheartedly agree with the below summary

CSG presents a major threat to our water resources. The cost of polluting or damaging the Great Artesian basin far outweighs any economic value this industry may bring. Knowledge of Australia's groundwater systems is in its infancy, so there can be no certainty at all in the industry's claims that it will not affect groundwater. The technology is still unproven and the effects still not fully known. When the whole life cycle of producing CSG is taken into account, per unit of energy released, burning shale gas produces between 120% and 200% of the emissions produced by burning coal. The extraction of CSG takes huge amounts of water – water that increasingly will be needed to produce food. Containment of the saline and contaminated water from CSG wells are a major environmental hazard. Intensive system of CSG wells (ie 200-400m spacing) are not compatible with agriculture. The mining boom, of which CSG is a part, has many negative impacts on rural communities (eg drain of skilled labour, pressure on housing & all local infrastructure). NSW does not need CSG for its energy needs.

Kevin Purdy