Submission No 473

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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A 7News investigation has revealed a coal seam gas plant in outer Sydney has pumped acid rain-causing chemicals into the air for three years.

According to the report, electricity suppliers AGL plan to use the same plant for its future gas field project near Campbelltown.

Documents discovered by 7News allege the plant illegally polluted over three years running from the Rosalind Park plant, saying the plant emitted 30 per cent more acid-rain causing sulphur oxides than allowed; and that it exceeded the limits for hazardous waste stored on site.

There is currently activity related to coal seam gas and coal mining in the Southern Highlands region. I am concerned that the pollution referred to above will occur in this region, with adverse effects on the population here as well as industry - both agricultural and tourism.

I submit that further coal seam gas extraction be halted until the companies concerned, with the support of an independent body can guarantee that it be non-polluting and without adverse effects on the health of the local population or the local industries.