

**Submission
No 36**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mrs Emma-Jane Larmar

Date received: 27/08/2011

I am writing to express my concerns about our growing practice of Coal Seam Gas extraction. I am deeply concerned as a citizen of Australia that the safety of our way of life is at stake. I believe that CSG extraction will lead to contamination of the water table and degradation of our precious farming lands which secures our hold on potential national food sovereignty. I am deeply troubled that the evaporation of hazardous chemicals into our airways will further contaminate our earth's fragile atmosphere as well as potential for it to leech into our waterways causing sickness, injury and death for a number of vulnerable species.

I would value a full moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling until the environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed.

I request that Coal seam gas exploration and mining be made subject to all relevant environmental legislation, including the native vegetation and water management laws.

I would value assurance that the community has full legal rights to challenge and enforce environmental laws under which coal seam gas companies are operating.

I demand that there be created the provision of a right in the Petroleum (Onshore) Act to allow landholders to refuse consent for coal seam gas exploration or production on their land.

I strongly advocate for the environment around us and think it is vital that there be a prohibition on coal seam gas exploration and mining in important bushland, valuable farmland, groundwater aquifers, residential areas and public lands.

It is crucial and I would value you making it a requirement that all chemicals used in coal seam gas drilling or fracking must be assessed by the chemical regulator for use for that purpose before being approved for use.

Thank you for your attention to this grave concern.

Regards

Emma Larmar (for Stephen, Keelan, Kristian and Tobias Larmar also)