

**Submission
No 315**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Ms Helen Hawkins and Mr John Hawkins

Date received: 6/09/2011

standing committee submission

The Chairman
The General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street, SYDNEY

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LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing to you to express my concern regarding Coal Seam Gas exploration proposed for the Manning Valley and surrounding areas.

My husband and I moved from the Sydney area nine years ago to escape the hustle and bustle of city life, our tree change. We expected to live out the remainder of our lives in peace and harmony, but now we find that with the advent of gas exploration breathing down our necks, that peace and harmony will be non-existent.

We have been told that we will have no say in what happens on our property, a small holding where we house our daughters horses and run a few head of cattle. What has happened to our democratic rights? Where will our animals graze, what water will they drink. Having watched "Gaslands" I shudder to think what our property will be like when the Gas Company moves in. But they will have a fight on their hands as we have locked our gates, they will not come on to our property without our permission and we will do everything in our power to stop them. My husband is 78 and I am almost 73 and I am sure the TV and newspapers would not look kindly on a big gas company playing bullyboys. We have been told of a case where a woman was told "don't mess with me "Girlie" we are too big, this behavior is not acceptable.

We would ask that an urgent review into the granting of future mining licences be undertaken as we do not believe that farming and mining can co-exist without irreparable damage being done, our farmlands should be left to agriculture. We are not against mining but the heavy handed approach is of great concern. There are five dairy farms from Wingham to Killabakh which I believe would be ruined beyond repair should coal seam gas be allowed to have free rein.

I am sure that the Gas Company will say that their process is safe, I do not believe this, surely there is enough evidence to stop the race for riches in favour clean air, water, and food. My husband and I may not have that many years to live but my children and grandchildren do and we would like to be able to leave them some legacy, not some barren wasteland a product of coal seam gas mining.

Yours faithfully,

Helen and John Hawkins
Phone No.