

**Submission
No 783**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mr Lachlan King

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My name is Lachlan King. I am a 26 year old Australian citizen living in Lismore on the Northern Rivers.

I am very concerned about the proposed coal seam gas mining, and I really hope that those with the power to influence our future will make the right decision.

The fact that it has been marketed as an alternative to coal is insulting. Coal Seam Gas is mostly Methane, which is a far more damaging greenhouse gas than Carbon Dioxide. Methane is known to leak into the atmosphere as a result of the current extraction methods, with obvious detrimental impacts. Along with the methane come many other toxic and/or carcinogenic chemicals that have left a common pattern of health problems across US CSG mining regions which include; adrenal-gland tumours, blood disorders, neurological effects, kidney damage and cardiovascular effects.

The process by which coal seam gas is extracted - cracking the rock to release the gas which is trapped within by water - is clumsy and dangerous. Water must be pumped out to de-pressurise the seam to allow the gas to flow more freely. This water is contaminated with naturally occurring heavy metals and carcinogens, and is often stored in lakes and left to evaporate, along with the harmful chemicals which come down in the rain causing great damage to the landscape.

The consequences of coal seam gas mining in the US have been well documented, and CSG has been suspended in England due to the impacts of the extraction process. They are concerned it may be a contributor to earthquakes and tremors in CSG mining regions.

It makes me very sad to think that this might go ahead, and that some people have so little regard for the welfare of our environment and our people.

Coal seam gas is not the answer to the energy crisis. Aside from the massive impact of the extraction process, it will run out some day, just like oil and coal. There are sustainable alternatives which are currently being employed around the world and huge amounts of room to implement these facilities in Australia.

Other countries such as Germany that are already employing alternatives will be admired for their wisdom one day.

I am sure you will have received many submissions like mine – please listen to us. We are the people, this is our land. Unless we change our priorities and ways of thinking, there will come a day when the earth will have no more to give us, and our money will be useless.

Please pull the pin on Coal Seam Gas Mining in Australia. Be strong enough to do what's best for your country despite the pressures of the global economy.