

**Submission
No 23**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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I submit that a ***very limited number*** of coal seam gas activities be allowed to proceed as follows:-

- 1 By far the most important reason to deny rampant CSG mining is the millions of litres of water per drilling required. This is an ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF WATER , both the farmers and the environment need that water more than the miners do. Australia simply does not have the water to spare for rampant CSG mining. Please ask yourselves, where does this heavily contaminated water go when the miners are finished with it? How safely is it disposed of.
2. Where there is absolutely no danger of damage, or chemical contamination to the water aquifers. This will need to be proven and certified independently and paid for by the miners at their expense, not subsidised by the government.
3. CSG mining only to be undertaken by those companies which have a proven track record of Zero impact on the local environment.
4. No CSG mining whatsoever on prime agricultural land. We have lost a lot of prime agricultural land to housing developments along the coast, particularly in areas of high rainfall, these may be the only areas to expect any kind of rainfall in the future. It is near to impossible, to rehabilitate any land that has been mined, due to chemical contamination.
5. No CSG mining in National Parks, we need to preserve our flora and fauna and there is precious little protection already
6. Genuine compensation payments to the landholders, not the paltry amounts currently being paid.
7. Fracking chemicals: until these companies come clean about the hazardous chemicals being used and prove that they are safe to the environment, to their employees, to the local community and to all livestock, wildlife and domestic pets, these chemicals used in fracking should be banned.

Mining is damaging every other industry in Australia, tourism, retail, manufacturing, *lets slow it down* and *get the Aussie dollar* down and benefiting all Australians, not just the miners and the mining employees.

Governments have got to stop thinking of Australia as one great big quarry. “Everything in moderation” should be our motto. We need to leave something for future generations.

You may say that I am asking too much, but I’m not, I am not asking to stop CSG mining I am simply asking to be more selective about the sites used, and to consider the future for all Australians.

Sandra Easton