

**Submission
No 467**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Organisation: Crystal Creek Farmers Association

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1a. Ground and surface water systems should be protected by legislation and enforced to ensure Coal Seam Gas (CSG) mining activities do not destroy the structural integrity and recharge capabilities of aquifers in Australia. Potable through to agricultural quality water should be considered of greater value to the government and its people than methane gas.

!b. Chemicals used by CSG companies should be registered and tested for adverse health impacts before any approval for use is considered. Chemicals used in the CSG extraction process should not enter aquifers that benefit agricultural, ecological and water supply interests. Toxic, bio-accumulative or carcinogenic chemicals should not be allowed to enter any ground or surface water catchment. If contamination occurs those responsible for the contamination should face serious charges for environmental damage and heavy fines as a deterrent.

2b. Food security is paramount to national security and should be protected from industries such as CSG that threaten agricultural production systems in Australia. "Produced" water from CSG activity is known to poison soil, water, air and the plants and animals that depend on these natural resources for survival and growth. Any current or future threat to food security by CSG activities should be removed in perpetuity in order to safe guard food production for many generations to come.

PROTECT OUR PRECIOUS WATER, LAND & CATTLE!!!

STOP COAL SEAM GAS MINING!!!

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF FRACKING & COAL SEAM GAS MINING?

1. Adverse Human Health Effects
 - Pollution from the CSG includes many **TOXIC** substances such as BTEX, hydrogen sulfide, heavy metals, sulfur dioxide, VOCs, PAHs. These contaminants are linked with cancer, severe and permanent neurological damage, asthma, heart problems, hormone disruption, debilitating headaches.
2. Methane Gas Leaks
 - Methane gas leaks from wells and fault lines in rocks and poisons air
 - CSG wells do sometimes catch fire and explode
 - Methane is a greenhouse gas that is 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide
3. “Produced Water”
 - Is **TOXIC!** Is extremely saline and contains cancer-causing agents, heavy metals, radionuclides, man-made chemicals
 - Sits at surface of earth as ponds and can leak and contaminate land
 - Sometimes dumped into creeks and rivers contaminating water
4. Industrial Wasteland
 - CSG mining involves a lot of infrastructure and noise pollution
 - Wells, compressor stations, pipelines, venting and flaring pipes, “produced water” ponds all litter the landscape
5. Devaluation Of Your Property
 - Once CSG mining infrastructure is either on your property or near your property, the value of your property decreases

MINING COMPANY “METGASCO”

There is a major CSG operation in Casino. The company Metgasco has plans to build a pipeline through public and private properties from Casino and Kyogle to Queensland ports via Lynches Creek and the Border Ranges National Park. The Border Ranges National Park should remain a protected sanctuary!