

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

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The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Parliament House
Macquarie St
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Dear Sir/Madam

Submission to Coal Seam Gas Enquiry

Given the amount of global and local knowledge about the environmental effects of coal seam gas extraction, it seems to me that it simply must not be allowed anywhere near productive farmland or, more importantly, areas of both important aquifers and surface water here in Australia.

It is well known that Australia is the driest continent on earth and we simply cannot afford to allow any threat to our water supplies. Nor should we allow the apparent disregard for our "food bowl" areas to continue.

In my case, I live in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales, an area of significant water resources (both surface and subterranean) which supply not only our local area, but also the vast metropolis of Sydney. To even consider allowing Planet Gas or any other CSG extraction company the right to even explore this area seems ludicrous.

Let's face it: if you ask any CSG extraction company if they can categorically assure us that their activities will have no detrimental impact on the environment (including aquifers and surface water) from their activities, they are simply unable to answer in the affirmative because those effects are already being felt in some of those areas where they are already drilling.

I think it's a "no brainer" really: the future of our State and the rest of Australia is at stake if we continue to have Governments who do not have the courage and fortitude to say "no" to those companies who care more about their future profits than the future of our country.

Finally, I think it's outrageous that property owners apparently don't have the legal right to deny access to mining companies – both for CSG and coal. How is that fair???

Yours faithfully,