

**Submission
No 441**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Organisation: Pottsville Community Association

Date received: 5/09/2011

We are an active community group of more than 356 financial members in northern NSW. We are very concerned about Coal Seam Gas Mining in NSW.

We believe CSG mining using the fracking process has the potential to have a very negative impact on both our groundwater and surface water supplies and as such call on the government to place a complete moratorium on both exploration and mining of this type until independent environmental testing shows that the process used is safe and does not have the potential to contaminate groundwater aquifers or create surface water runoff contamination.

We also call for legislation which allows landowners the right to refuse permission to access the land surface they own - this should be the right of a landowner.

We ask you to include legislation which ensures that gas mining companies are also required to comply to the environmental protection and water management acts in the same way any other individual must. To not include this would be a great hypocrisy and makes a mockery of the protection laws that everyone else must conform to.

We ask also that state significant agricultural lands and environmental protection zoned lands are granted a complete prohibition from the CSG processes and that the prohibition on such areas extends to significant buffer zones in order to protect the water supplies of such sites.

Please legislate to make it necessary for mining companies to reveal all of the chemicals used in their mining processes and ensure they are licensed to be used for such purposes.

In short, please act quickly to ensure protection of the water supplies of our communities.