

Submission
No 427

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mr Phil Bromley

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I would like to submit to the Committee my concerns on Coal Seam Gas mining throughout Australia. My concerns include the lack of sustainability of yet another finite fossil fuel that, as per Premier Bligh's response to my queries include "providing jobs for a whole generation". It's after that generation that makes me wonder what we'll be leaving the next generations without further investigation into an industry that fractures the earth.

I've read a lot of arguments for and against CSG but the only "for" I can see is an immediate financial gain that is not sustainable and has very little foresight.

I've also looked at many scientific investigations and despite my lack of in-depth scientific knowledge, I don't need any scientist to tell me that fracturing our earth is a good/bad practice. I'm surprised anyone does!

I am concerned not only for financial sustainability for our future generations but also the impacts on our food bowls, waterways, and agriculture in general. I would like to see:

1. A full moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling until the environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed.
2. Coal seam gas exploration and mining to be made subject to all relevant environmental legislation, including the native vegetation and water management laws.
3. The provision of standing to ensure that the community has full legal rights to challenge and enforce environmental laws under which coal seam gas companies are operating.
4. The provision of a right in the Petroleum (Onshore) Act to allow landholders to refuse consent for coal seam gas exploration or production on their land.
5. A prohibition on coal seam gas exploration and mining in important bushland, valuable farmland, groundwater aquifers, residential areas and public lands.
6. A requirement that all chemicals used in coal seam gas drilling or fracking must be assessed by the chemical regulator for use for that purpose before being approved for use.

I am actually outraged that this practice has already started and is growing daily, before any consultation with the wider community has taken place.

I would like to see more accountability and transparency by all State and Federal governments and where their personal financial interests lie in regard to this abhorrent practice that has no foresight.

I would also like an explanation as to why governments are so happy to invest in fossil fuels rather than renewable energy. I still haven't found any explanation other than short-term financial gain that will serve no one in the future.

Sincerely,

Phil Bromley