

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Submission to the Standing Committee of the Legislative Council of New South Wales enquiry into the coal seam gas industry.

I believe the coal seam gas industry poses an unacceptable risk to the health of the natural environment globally and a very serious threat to the health and human rights of New South Wales landowners.

I urge the standing committee to adopt the following points:

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.
7. A full investigation into the climate forcing effects of energy consumption and methane leaks to the atmosphere resulting from exploration for, production and transport of, coal seam gas.