

**Submission
No 698**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Ms Narion Giles

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I write this submission to express my concerns about the coal seam gas exploration and mining industry. It is of the utmost importance that this type of industry that involves drilling into and introducing chemicals into the water systems does not occur unchecked.

A full moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling until the environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed.

Coal seam gas exploration and mining must be made subject to all relevant environmental legislation, including the native vegetation and water management laws.

It is vital that the community has full legal rights to challenge and enforce environmental laws under which coal seam gas companies are operating.

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 is necessary.

Coal seam gas exploration and mining in important bushland, valuable farmland, groundwater aquifers, residential areas and public lands must be prohibited.

There needs to be a mandatory 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.

A failure to provide these basic provisions means that the rights of Australians are being sacrificed for the industry's financial gain.