

**Submission  
No 69**

## **INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS**

**Name:** Ms Linda Wirf

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The Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000

29<sup>th</sup> August 2011

**Submission to Coal Seam Gas Inquiry**

I am a resident of the Northern Rivers Region of NSW and I am very concerned about the potential impacts that coal seam gas will have on this Region. The Northern Rivers Region is recognised as an extremely biologically rich part of Australia, containing a large number of endemic species. While the Region occupies just 6.3% of New South Wales, it supports over 40% of the State's threatened species, including around 70% of threatened frogs, 75% of threatened birds, 60% of threatened mammals and 40% of threatened plants. In addition, one-fifth of the State's threatened ecological communities are known to occur in this Region.<sup>1</sup> The Northern Rivers contains World Heritage National Park. Tourism is a major part of the economy of the Region. Coal seam gas mining threatens both the fragile environmental values and the economic viability of the Northern Rivers.

There is strong evidence from other parts of the world that coal seam gas mining has had irreparable negative environmental and human health impacts as a result of environmental disturbances and breakdown of eco systems due to clearing of vegetation and environmental pollution, air pollution, contamination of food crops and drinking water, as well as excessive noise and light pollution leading to mental health problems. Coal seam gas mining has already been banned in France, New York and South Africa as these countries have identified the environmental and human health risks as being too high.

I am calling for a total ban on all forms of coal seam gas drilling and mining in the Northern Rivers Region of NSW.

Linda Wirf MSc (Environmental Management)

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<sup>1</sup> Northern Rivers Region Biodiversity Management Plan, Dept of Environment, Climate Change & Water, April 2010