

**Submission
No 158**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Ms Amanda Martin

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To whom it concerns,

After attending recent meetings in our local area, of the Great Lakes, I am outraged by the lack of factual information and rights concerning coal seam gas mining in Australia, and potentially in my backyard. As a resident and land owner of a beautiful 110 acres of bushland, we moved our young family out of the Sydney, to enjoy and prosper in the fresh air, clean water, rich soils and beautiful surrounds that our locality provide. I place great honour in my custodian-ship of this unique environment, and also of the future of my two small children, who will inherit this earth.

With all the royalties of CSG going to the mining companies for the the first five years of operations, drilling wells in Nerong, Port Stephens, and Gloucester are being pushed forward at an unprecedented rate. This issue is now one that is on our doorstep, and i find myself urged to make my voice heard.

The most immediate concern is of the contamination of groundwater, with heavy metals and hydrocarbons, and Class A carcinogens such as Benzene, surfactants, as well as a list of other pollutants. We live in a rainfall area of aprox 1300 mm/yr. If product water is left in holding ponds to evaporate, there is certain to be overflow and leaching of contaminates into the immediate environment, and we live among a multitude of rivers, lakes and estuaries that flow into the ocean. How to dispose of the large quantities of product water pumped from the aquifers? We don't have the infrastructure and no amount of revenue via resource extraction can be worth this threat to a pristine and naturally healthy ecosystem! Why the need to undertake harmful primary production enhancements in order to make coal seam methane economically viable?

There are many other concerns that need further consultation with Local Government and community bodies, such as economic and social implications, and community and agricultural health.

I urge Federal, State and Local government authorities to take responsible intervention to place an immediate moratorium on all gas mining activities, exploration and production licences, either issued or in application, until proven safe.

I also wish for the establishment of a royal commission to independantly investigate the impacts of this industry and allow communities to have a voice as to whether this industry is allowed to operate in there backyard.

Sincerely Amanda Martin