

Submission  
No 668

## INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

I am deeply concerned that the CSG mining industry is rapidly developing without research and independent monitoring of all the procedures and their impacts on the environment.

Impacts on the water aquifers and water quality that is treated and discharged must be fully investigated. The very large discharge volumes of treated water is of great significance as the impact on stream estuary ecology will have ongoing and unconsidered challenges.

The accumulation of salts on the ground surface from the drilling procedure and runoff also impacts on local vegetation and kills susceptible species. The waste sediment is eventually buried without a liner in the original containment pond. This is not a satisfactory procedure to deal with waste that can leach back into the shallow aquifers.

The fragmentation of habitat in woodland environments is of concern as we must consider the cumulative effects of clearing 1.2 ha for every well head, 500 m across the landscape as well as further clearing for buried pipelines, roads, treatment works and processing plants.

This level of development across food producing landscapes causes fragmentation of rural communities between those who give access or sell out to mining developments and those farmers who want to maintain security and productive integrity of their landscape.

What procedures are in place for protection of CSG infrastructure in bush fires apart from evacuating all personnel?

What monitoring is being undertaken on gas emissions vented to the atmosphere. Is the gas flare that we can see when venting purely methane or a mix of other gaseous vapour? Is this sort of fugitive methane emission considered?

I believe this technology is a clumsy, outdated and environmentally destructive approach to securing our energy needs. It's time to really tighten up the technology to ensure we are definitely not impacting on other finite resources such as water and productive soil.

If we cannot guarantee very minimal environmental impacts through CSG mining then we should turn to developing and using renewable resources for our energy needs and know that we will still have Australian food and water on our table at night.