

**Submission
No 378**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Ms Jain Brand

Date received: 7/09/2011



5 September 2011

Re: Submission to Coal Seam Gas Inquiry

Thank you for the opportunity to present this submission.

Background

In late 2010 we purchased a 200 acre farm at Baerami Creek. On the property are three large orchards containing a total of 2000 pecan trees that are up to 40 years old. The land is narrow and long and is bordered along one side by National Park. Baerami Creek runs right through the middle of the farm. In the past this property has operated as a successful, sustainable, farming enterprise. Our aim in purchasing this property was to provide a long term income and a quality, healthy lifestyle for us both.

We have serious concerns about the impact of Coal Seam Gas activities on our farm, orchards, health and livelihood.

With regard to the Terms of Reference our particular concerns are as follows:

1. The environmental and health impact of CSG activities:

(a) Effect on ground and surface water systems.

Our property has 3 licensed bores which feed from Baerami Creek. The creek flows right through the middle of our property and our pecan trees require regular irrigation from this water supply. We are very concerned about the risks that Coal Seam Gas activities could



have to the surface and ground water systems. Any contamination of the water supply will severely affect our pecan trees and therefore our livelihood.

(b) Effects related to the use of chemicals.

We have major concerns about the use of chemicals in the Coal Seam Gas processes on or near our farm. Any contamination could seriously affect the quality of our produce (pecans). Our long term plan is to work toward Organic Certification for our pecan orchards. The use of chemicals in this area would severely affect our ability to apply for Organic Certification.

(d) Effect on Crown Lands including travelling stock routes and State forests.

Our property is bordered by World Heritage Wollemi National Park (as are many of the properties in this area). Because of such close proximity to a National Park we believe that any CSG activities will impact adversely on these areas.

2. The economic and social implications of CSG activities:

(a) Legal rights of property owners and property values.

Due to the small size of our acreage (200 acres) any CSG activities on or near our property would be extremely intrusive and disturbing. We believe that this activity would also cause a large devaluation of our recently acquired property.



(b) Food security and agricultural activity.

Our property is capable of producing a good quality and quantity of pecans. A huge amount of time and work has been put into this property's pecan orchards. Some of the trees are over 40 years old. Any CSG activities in this area could damage or destroy pecan production from our orchards.

(e) Local Government including provision of local/regional infrastructure planning control mechanisms.

We have serious concerns about the ability of Baerami Creek Road to handle the increased traffic load caused by CSG activities. Most of the length of the road is very winding and only allows for one car width. An increase in the quantity and size of the traffic, especially trucks, will increase the risk of serious accidents.

Summary

We purchased our property with the aim of providing us both with a sustainable income and a quality lifestyle. We believe that CSG activities in this area will impact our lifestyle severely and sincerely ask that you consider other alternatives.

Paul O'Neill

Jain Brand