

Submission
No 303

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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Attention of *The Director
Gen Purpose Standing Committee No 5,
Parliament House, Sydney 2000*

Submission for Senate Inquiry into the Management of the Murray Darling Basin Plan in Regional Australia with particular reference to coal seam gas mining.

I welcome this opportunity to make a brief submission.

Australia has just introduced a carbon price in the national interest. Australia has therefore begun to follow most of the developed world in becoming an economy in transition from outdated polluting fossil fuel industries to renewable energy technologies and sustainable industries.

It is not rocket science why there is very little social licence for coal seam gas fields in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and other affected States in Australia:

(a) the toxic fracking process is using huge/ongoing quantities of scarce water resource whilst irreversibly wrecking groundwater tables for our own and future generations. Of particular concern for Queensland is the threat to the Great Artesian Basin and the Murray Darling Basin.

(b) the heavily polluted produced water and vast areas of coal seam gas infrastructure is destroying prime food producing land. "Treating" the produced water is a scientifically unconvincing option.

© Earth tremors are a major concern: the U.K. banned fracking in Lancashire after the second earthquake struck close to the mining site.

Massive public pressure has led to France, U.K., New Jersey State, South Africa (amongst other places around the world) banning or indefinitely suspending coal or shale seam gas mining for all of the above mentioned threats to food and water resource security. Queensland needs to get into line and act for food and water security – New South Wales has extended it's moratorium on exploration licences.

European countries e.g. Germany and Spain with less reliable sunlight than Australia are forging ahead with fully operating baseline solar and wind energy plants designed for major cities. China and India have extensive investment in these renewable energy technologies and sustainable industries.

The Chinchilla solar/gas hybrid plant is outdated technology, an attempt to greenwash the relentless continuation of toxic coal seam gas extraction in that area. Queensland the "sunshine state" is sadly lagging behind, it is imperative we catch up.

Jenny Chester,