

**Submission
No 673**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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Impact of CSG on the Hunter Valley tourism industry.

The Tourism industry in the Hunter valley represents a \$1.8 billion dollars per year industry. It is built upon the attraction of the region particularly its wineries, and its close proximity to Sydney. On this building block has flowered a whole support industry comprising hundreds of small businesses involved in Hospitality, food, accommodation tourism attractions and support activities. This industry has developed over the past 150 years, and now is the major employer in the region employing thousands of people.

The advent of CSG mining to the area will destroy the attraction of the area. Tourists come to see vines wineries and tourism facilities, not CSG wells, pipelines, Gas tanks, compressor stations, saline ponds for returned water, that will destroy the attraction of the area.

There is no economic value to be gained for the people of NSW by allowing CSG mining in the vineyards area. Why replace a perennial industry for the sake of a 20 year indulgence with CSG that may well destroy the intrinsic values of the Hunter winegrowing and tourism areas precluding a return to their present state.

For those of us that have invested our lives labour and financial future in the Hunter, the advent of CSG threatens to destroy our livelihood, and lifes savings. We risk to be severely marginalised, and lose both our income streams assets, maybe our health also. People will not want to visit the CSG/vineyards. much less acquire assets in this Currently beautiful area.

I urge the senate committee to veto CSG developement in the Hunter vineyards region, defend the purity of our water supplies, and vote for the protection of truly sustainable industries. The risk associated with CSG mining is not worth the limited benefit.