

Submission
No 840

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Submission

Hello, my name is [redacted] and I am a happily married mother of two young, clever and lovely children. I am a University trained professional but am currently working at home. I am a member of my children's school's P&F Association and I am a community and family minded person who offers my assistance for the betterment of my family, my community and other Australians.

I am writing this submission to ask that there be some serious research dedicated to the effects of Coal Seam Gas Mining before it affects many things in negative ways. Irreversible ways.

The 'things' I believe it will affect cross a number of realms -- health, environmental, social and financial.

The method used to EXTRACT the methane gas from the coal seam is what really concerns me. I am not against gas mining or coal mining. I am against the way methane gas is mined!

I believe that in this day and age we should not allow any question over the safety of our water! I am concerned about ground water being polluted and the systems in which it travels being destroyed forever! I am concerned about water catchment areas being contaminated. There should be no question regarding the safety and future of our water. It is what ALL our families, plants and wildlife draw from. There are no political or financial boundaries when it comes to consumption of water. Water really is LIFE -- don't mess with it!

If the main reason I have to fight against this method of mining is financial, then its time to research the financial *consequences* after CSG mining is found and proven to be detrimental. With the population drinking from contaminated water supplies or eating the food farmed from poisoned irrigation water I can only imagine the impact on our already struggling health system!

Another consequence of the effects of CSG mining will be the need to bring clean water in to major cities for the people to use. Not a cheap option!

Farming communities where CSG mining is happening (across the country) will be ruined. Not a good thing for Australian exports. Who would want to buy our produce when we have grown it near hundreds of gas wells? Not to mention our farmers -- they will have no job to do with land that is useless and dead. Their families will be forced to move out of farming districts to find other employment. Their self-worth damaged. The social impact will be enormous. Don't mess with our farmers, their families and what they do -- we need them.

Our wildlife, which we seem to be trying to protect, will be further at risk. In Southern Sydney/Northern Illawarra there are delicate environmental areas where CSG wells have been approved. It just does not make sense with the knowledge we have at our finger tips today in regards to the health of our environment. Don't mess with our plants and animals – we need them too!

As I said, I am a mother of two fantastic children with their whole lives ahead of them. My husband and I have worked *extremely* hard to provide them with a healthy lifestyle alongside good values and morals. I did not vote for any government to allow any form of mining that puts them at risk to lead productive, happy and community-conscious lives. Wherever CSG mining occurs it will affect those outside of that occurrence across those four realms I mentioned earlier.

My children are assets to this country, don't mess with them either!

I am writing on their behalf, on their friends' behalf, on my extended family's behalf and the entire community's behalf. I do not want CSG mining to occurring anywhere, let alone near sensitive areas of water catchments. I cannot believe I even have to write this!

CSG is a quick-fix money-grabbing opportunity to provide gas to other countries. We will be left with more financial worries with the health, social and environmental disasters that will follow. Please do not be short-sighted - act now. Protect our country from this form of mining. It is your job to protect our country.

Please take some time to look at areas in the world where this type of mining is occurring. If looking overseas just seems too far away then simply take a look at Queensland! Listen to the people being affected there. It is very sad and it is very worrying.

I **am not** a greenie or a hippy or a regular protester. I **am** an average Australian woman who is most concerned about the health, environmental, social and financial issues related to this method of mining. I do not want this industry for my kids or anyone else's! In fact, I do not want it for anyone.

Also I cannot afford an ad on TV to get my voice heard like the CSG companies can so please listen to my concerns.

Sincerely,

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