

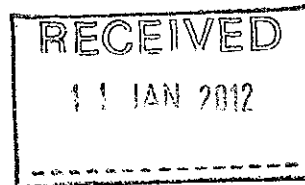
**Supplementary
Submission
No 905a**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Organisation: Kyogle Council

Date received: 11/01/2012

All communications to be addressed to:
The General Manager
PO Box 11 KYOGLE
NSW 2474
AUSTRALIA



ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
Stratheden Street
Kyogle NSW 2474 AUSTRALIA
Phone 02 6632 1611
Fax 02 6632 2228
International Code (+ 61 2)
Email council@kyogle.nsw.gov.au
Website www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au

CONTACT

John Hession
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Coal seam Gas
PLEASE QUOTE THIS REFERENCE

9 January 2012

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

Parliamentary Inquiry - Standing Committee No. 5 into Coal Seam Gas

With reference to the above, Kyogle Council has received in the order of 100 submissions which indicate their objection to the undertaking of coal seam gas extraction within the Kyogle Local Government Area.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 November, 2011 Council considered a report which included the range of issues submitted by residents and resolved as follows.

1. That the Coal Seam Gas Parliamentary Inquiry report was received and noted.
2. That Council staff lodge a written submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry which describes in more detail the community concerns as expressed in their submissions outlined in this report.
3. That Council approaches NSW State Government in relation to the Environmental Impact Statement from Metgasco on the proposed pipeline over the Lions Road, seeking assurance that Council will be involved in the process and be allowed to have input.

In accordance with the above, a submission is hereby forwarded including the range of issues raised in the objections submitted to Council which are outlined below:-

- 1 The process of fracturing which will cause damage to Australia's pristine beauty and ecology.
2. Ongoing damage to underground wells.
3. Methane leaks throughout the mining process.
4. Support for Council's resolution that a moratorium be placed on coal seam gas drilling (not just the issue of licences) until such time as the impact of CSG on water supplies, the environment and personal property and amenity is understood through independent research, funded by government, is carried out.
5. The ability of mining companies to set up drilling on a neighbour's land and then drill horizontally under my land.

6. The devaluation of the property on which mining is operated and also on neighbouring properties.
7. The inability of landowners to decline access to mining companies.
8. The threatening behavior of mining companies when they do not get what they want.
9. Foreign mining companies buying up agricultural land for mining operations.
10. The evidence of the destruction of water quality already happening in South East Queensland.
11. The fear of what has happened in Tara in South East Queensland.
12. The potential of gas pipelines to crack.
13. The emphasis by the State Government not to care about where the mining companies go as long as they benefit from the royalties.
14. The evidence of water pollution both above ground and to the aquifers.
15. The coal seam gas companies state that they are only assisting in the demand for more cheap and clean energy. We should be concentrating on ways to use less energy – to halt this so called demand for more energy.
16. How is it that coal seam gas from Kyogle can be sent to Gladstone and then on to China where the gas will be bought at a cheaper price than in Australia?
17. The coal seam gas drilling can lead to the release of volatile organic compounds, poly-aromatic hydrocarbons, heavy metals (e.g. uranium, lead, mercury) and other compounds naturally present in the coal seams.. These may be brought to the surface via leaks or in the water associated with the process. Of the compounds typically released, 25% are carcinogenic, 37% affect the endocrine system, 52% affect the nervous system, 40% affect the immune system and 100% affect the respiratory system.
18. The coal seam gas extraction poses serious risks to fresh water aquifers. The huge volumes extracted can lead to major depletions in adjoining aquifers used for drinking water, agriculture, other industries and firefighting.
19. The chemical residues from fracking may cause potentially irreversible contamination to both ground and surface water sources.
20. Food supplies will be negatively impacted by the leaching of toxic chemicals into cattle and the tainting of meat from areas that are affected.
21. Consideration of intergenerational ramifications from an environmental, social and economic perspective is warranted prior to establishing if the industry is viable for this region.
22. Loss and fragmentation of vegetation with associated impacts on native wildlife and biodiversity.
23. Loss of good agricultural land from gas infrastructure.
24. Industrialisation of rural landscapes, with heavy machinery traffic, access roads and pipelines.
25. Risks to human health due to constant high level noise, toxic gases vented from gas wells and compressor stations and chemical contamination of water.
26. Loss of visual amenity with serious negative impacts on the tourist industry.
27. Negative psychological effects of ongoing threats from the industry on land, livelihood and well-being.
28. Conflict in local communities between those for the industry and those against.
29. Fly in – fly out workers who win jobs rather than the locals which can lead to social problems such as increased violence and alcohol related crime.

30. Coal seam gas has a much larger footprint than the industry and government maintains.

At its Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 December, 2011 Council considered a Mayoral Minute and resolved as follows:-

1. That Council discuss its position with regards to the Coal Seam Gas Industry.
2. That Council imposes a moratorium on any seismic testing, exploration drilling or other road reserve disturbance by the CSG Industry on Council owned infrastructure or infrastructure under Kyogle Council control including the Lions Road.
3. That Council informs the CSG industry and the NSW State Government that the moratorium will remain in place until its previous recommendations have been satisfactorily addressed.
4. That Council informs any holders of exploration licences within the Kyogle LGA that prior to the establishment of any " Drilling Camps " that it requests a DA be submitted for processing and approval. Such a DA will require an approved Vehicular Access under Council's Property Access and Addressing Policy and Management Plan.
5. That Kyogle Council opposes completely any CSG development on Prime Agricultural Land and high conservation value land.

Yours faithfully

Frank Winter
A/GENERAL MANAGER