

**Submission  
No 416**

## **INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS**

**Organisation:** Clarence Valley Council

**Date received:** 19/09/2011

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19 September 2011

Reference:  
Contact: D Schroder

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

Email: [gpscno5@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gpscno5@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

**Submission Coal Seam Gas Inquiry - General Purpose Standing Committee No 5**

It has been indicated by Madeleine Foley, Principal Council Officer that Clarence Valley Council can make a late submission on the above inquiry. Council thanks the Standing Committee for allowing a late submission.

Council's submission relates to a Motion on Notice which was unanimously carried by Councillors at Council's July meeting. This motion was then sent on to the Premier and Prime Minister as well as key Ministers involved with the issue. The Council's position as relates to Coal Seam Gas mining as outlined in the Motion on Notice is:-

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION – 14.005/11**

**That Council:**

1. **Acknowledge the heightened concerns relating to coal seam gas (CSG mining).**
2. **Lobby the New South Wales State Government including writing to Barry O'Farrell Premier, Mr Chris Hartcher Minister for Resources and Energy and Mr Steve Cansdell, Member for Clarence, to request the NSW Government to implement a moratorium on coal seam gas mining in Clarence Valley Council LGA until extensive and independent environmental impact statements have been concluded on the effects on the environment particularly:**
  - **Protection of ground and surface water from pollution and environmental disturbance;**
  - **Community health and safety;**
  - **Ensuring no loss of biodiversity;**
  - **Respect for landowner rights; and**
  - **Avoiding economic impacts on agriculture and tourism.**
3. **Lobby the Commonwealth Government including writing to Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Tony Burke Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Janelle Saffin Member for Page, Luke Hartsuyker Member for Cowper, Leader of the Opposition Tony Abbott and Greg Hunt Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage, to raise the issue on a Federal level.**

As can be seen from the resolution Council's issues relate to a moratorium on mining until key issues around the protection of the environment and impacts on landholder rights can be resolved. Council is also concerned that mining does not impact on agricultural production and our tourism sector which are key components of the Clarence Valley economy. At present agriculture and forestry is worth directly over \$80 million to the economy and tourism over \$280 million.

While Council sees that potentially gas can have many benefits to our economy this should not be at the detriment of our traditional industries and economy.

I look forward to the inquiry's outcomes.

Yours faithfully

Richie Williamson  
**Mayor**