

Submission
No 799

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 7/09/2011

Partially Confidential

To the Upper House Coal Seam Gas Inquiry Committee,

When it comes to the mining of Coal Seam Gas I am deeply concerned Australian citizen and make the following submission.

This new 'Gas Rush' we are seeing is one of the most frightening developments we have witnessed in recent history. There are many unanswered questions surrounding this industry and the risks to our water supplies, food production, tourism, public health and community well being are enormous.

My main concerns are:

1. The chemicals used in the so called 'fracking' process have been rejected by regulators as far too dangerous - many of which have the potential to cause cancer and birth defects.
2. The extraordinary amount of water used in this process is unacceptable for a country that is one of the driest, most drought affected in the world.
3. The pollution of our ground water, the destructions of our aquifer systems and the risk to the Great Artesian Basin. I find any activity that puts water security at risk totally unacceptable.
4. The effect it will have on important local industries such as tourism - especially here in the Northern Rivers. People visiting here do not want to see an ugly cobweb of Gasfields instead of our lovely countryside.
5. The devastating effect it will have on land values and local communities. Banks are not interested in lending money on a property that has been contaminated by gas wells.
6. The effect on a nation's food bowl and agriculture. Why should our ability to support and feed ourselves as a nation be jeopardised by a handful of greedy foreign owned energy companies?
7. The extraction techniques are an unproven science and mining activity of this scale could potentially have disastrous effects on our precious environment.
8. There appears to be no safe method of disposal of the by-products such as 'produced water' and the recent development - salt.
9. The methane gas itself is not a suitable transition fuel when leakages and extraction are taken into account. It is a very dangerous greenhouse gas - 25 times worse than carbon dioxide.
10. By supporting this industry we are prolonging the much needed transition to true clean energies. Clean green renewable energies are the only real course of action available to us if we want to hand down a country and a planet that can support our kids and their grand kids. It is time Australia took a lead and adopted a more sustainable view to mining and our environment.

It is for these reasons that I wish to call on the NSW Government and the Federal Government to impose a complete ban on the mining of Coal Seam Gas and instead invest in a clean green future that will benefit everyone, not just a handful of greedy mining executives and their shareholders.

Thankyou.

Yours Sincerely,

Mother of three, Grand mother of six.