

Submission
No 494

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mr Michael Lynch

Date received: 5/09/2011

The Hon Robert Brown
Chair
NSW Legislative Council Inquiry into Coal Seam Gas
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000.

Dear Sir

I am resident of the Myall Lakes Catchment and I am alarmed at the possibility of coal seam gas mining within this catchment. Pangaea Resources (which has PEL476) has been approaching individual property owners for permission to explore. The information that they have been distributing to property owners is grossly misleading. Further, they have not made any attempt to connect with the community at large to inform them of their overall plans.

I have since been looking at the issue of CSG within the Myall Lakes catchment and have therefore decided to make this submission to your Inquiry. I have not attempted to repeat the detailed explanations that are contained in the submission for the action group representing people within this area. Rather, I have just summarized my main concerns so that you understand that this is a real issue.

1. Myall Lakes is a Ramsar listed site of international significance. There should be no CSG mining within this whole catchment.
2. There are very major concerns re the environment, health and social welfare in areas where CSG mining occurs. The rules governing CSG mining must be amended to ensure that all of these concerns are addressed properly.
3. Coal seam gas must not take precedence over property owners' rights. The rules governing CSG mining must be amended to ensure that property owners' rights are not impacted in any way.
4. The NSW Government has a conflict of interest problem in both authorizing CSG exploration and production and receiving royalties from the mining companies in respect of this activity. Decision making within the Government needs to be changed so that ministers involved with mining and the receipt of royalties are not involved in CSG decisions relating to the environment, health, social welfare and property owner's rights.
5. I understand that research raises serious questions re the whole life-cycle carbon footprint of CSG. The NSW Government should undertake its own research into this matter before sanctioning significant expansion of CSG.

I trust that you will take my concerns into account. I am but one of very many who have serious doubts about coal seam gas.