

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 8/09/2011

Partially Confidential

As a farmer and irrigator on the Hunter river I have an interest in preserving agricultural land and in the water quality and water security of the Hunter Regulated River source. I submit to the Senate enquiry therefore that:

There must be a full moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling until the environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed.

Coal seam gas exploration and mining must be made subject to all relevant environmental legislation, including the native vegetation and water management laws.

There should be legislative provisions to ensure that the community has full legal rights to challenge and enforce environmental laws under which coal seam gas companies are operating.

It is imperative in the interests of natural justice that the Petroleum (Onshore) Act be amended to allow landholders to refuse consent for coal seam gas exploration or production on their land.

The Government should place a prohibition on coal seam gas exploration and mining in important bushland, valuable farmland, groundwater aquifers, residential areas and public lands.

There must be a requirement that all chemicals used in coal seam gas drilling or fracking must be assessed by the chemical regulator for use for that purpose before being approved for use.