

**Submission
No 569**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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SUBMISSION: PARLIMENTERY INQUIRY COAL SEAM GAS

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No 5
Parliament House
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I have seen the impacts that Coal Seam Gas industries have on the people, water, the environment, and land, firsthand, when visiting the industry in Queensland last year. We spoke to a huge range of people from all walks of life, and all organisations had the same genuine concerns. These concerns are major concerns, and should not to be taken lightly.

The first concern being WATER. This alone should be enough to stop this industry from developing. Water is the most valuable and precious resource on the planet. There are renewable energy industries that do not pollute and deplete our water resource. The methods suggested by the coal seam gas industries to fix and manage the water issues are band aide solutions to an issue that is extremely serious. It is not worth any risk, especially when there are alternative renewable energy methods that have no risk to the water. There are problems of regulating and monitoring the solutions suggested by the gas companies. Compensation for the loss of water is ridiculous. We should be protecting our most valuable resource, not destroying it. **THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE FOR WATER, BUT THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE FOR CSG.**

The **INFRASTRUCTURE IMPRINT** of coal seam gas is huge. The cobweb of pipes and roads connected to each well was alarming. This cobweb of infrastructure completely destroys the environment and the land. If this industry is allowed to expand for export, it will have a huge impact on the environment. All of the infrastructure will be left in the ground and will be left there as the legacy of the coal seam gas industry damage, after the resource is depleted. This is not long term planning.

After visiting Queensland it appeared that the Coal Seam Gas industries are a parasitic industry and other existing land users or industries are forced into a situation whereby they are the host for that industry. This is completely unfair. **OTHER EXISTING INDUSTRY'S RIGHTS** are eroded away and there are problems with **CO-EXISTANCE**.

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I have read current scientific information on the question of how clean and green coal seam gas is, and there is UNCERTAINTY AS TO HOW CLEAN AND GREEN COAL SEAM GAS actually is when you consider the cumulative greenhouse gas emissions, and when taking the whole process into consideration. Australia is considering exporting the bulk of the gas and when it is converted to LNG for export, how green is it???

If we are truly serious about an alternative clean energy source, I would opt for renewable sources any day. Fossil fuel energy has huge environmental costs, which outweigh short term money benefits. Money cannot replace the damage that coal seam gas will do to the people and the environment.

FOOD SECURITY is another major concern for Australia. We need to protect and look after our food growing areas. The coal seam gas industry should not be allowed to inflict itself onto existing industries that grow food. This should include all existing food industries, not just to protect prime agricultural land. THE FOOD INDUSTRY IS JUST AS IMPORTANT, IF NOT MORE IMPORTANT. THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES FOR CSG, BUT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE FOR FOOD.

EXISTING JOBS IN EXISTING INDUSTRIES should be protected. Jobs in other industries will be lost as a result of coal seam gas expansion.

I have children of my own, and I want to ensure that Isabelle and Campbell, along with the future young generation of Australia, are not left with the legacy of the damaging effects of the coal seam gas industry. Future generations have a right to clean food and water, just like our generation has.

Yours Faithfully

Natasha Parish