

**Submission
No 809**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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The potential dangers of processes such as fracking outweigh the benefits of their use at this stage, especially as they have not been proven to be safe for aquifers and the surrounding land. The potential of polluting aquifers at great distances from the sites, thus endangering the health of the whole surrounding community is unacceptable.

The imposition on private landowners by mining companies that can work 24/7 with loud noise, bright lighting, truck and other vehicle movements through properties with no ability by landowners to have any say in how it affects their lives.

The belief that gas power is an environmentally sound product flies in the face of new data showing that with the toxic by-products and extra methane exuded into the air it is little better than the current pollution created by coal mining.

The fact that local mining would threaten the profoundly important environmental qualities that we have nurtured in our region for decades in return for negligible benefits to the community (NSW has even waived royalties for 5 years!) is profoundly short-sighted and points to the government being pressured by the mining lobby for these mines to go ahead.

The unbelievable situation that the people of the region have no say over what happens in their area, considering the profoundly dangerous potential of these mining processes on the future of our lives and those of our children is untenable.

We trust that the enquiry will deny the continuation of mining leases until studies are thoroughly undertaken to guarantee the safety of our watershed and the future of farming and the health of our land.