

**Submission
No 769**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mr Richard Skates

Date received: 6/09/2011

As a resident of a rural area in the middle of one of the states mining areas and living on a river, I am very concerned regarding the impacts of coal seam gas mining in NSW.

I call on you to establish a full moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling until the environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed.

As an industry coal seam gas exploration and mining should be made subject to all relevant environmental legislation, including the native vegetation and water management laws. No more self regulation of the mining industry whether it be longwall, open cut or coal seam gas.

I ask for the provision of standing to ensure that the community has full legal rights to challenge and enforce environmental laws under which coal seam gas companies are operating.

I also request the provision of a right in the Petroleum (Onshore) Act to allow landholders to refuse consent for coal seam gas exploration or production on their land.

There should also be a prohibition on coal seam gas exploration and mining in important bushland, valuable farmland, groundwater aquifers, residential areas and public lands.

Public health and the health of aquifers must be protected, 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.