

**Submission
No 774**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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Submission

For the NSW Legislative Council's General Purpose Standing Committee no 5 : Coal Seam gas Inquiry.

I will begin by stating that I live in the rural area 70kms south of the city of Sydney, I have no town water supply or reticulated sewer.

I have a reedbed waste water system attached to a septic tank.

I depend on electricity and bottled gas for heating, cooking and light ,water is collected from above in a tank.

I recycle plastic, glass and cardboard which is collected fortnightly- my bin goes out once per month with household rubbish collected weekly – mine once a month.

I compost all vegetable scraps and garden waste which then goes back to the vegetable garden.

Like many living outside cities we attempt to be fairly self sufficient.

Electricity and Gas are an essential requirement for 21st century life and presently electricity is coal fired in Australia. Nuclear a clean alternative is not acceptable to this nation. Roll on nuclear fusion.

Gas is the next cleanest power source but has created a great debate for and against but in the main the objection relates to the method of extraction known as fracking.

As far as I can glean from all reports the long term effects from this procedure is unknown therefore should not be carried out in farming areas which produce the nations food supply.

Water is a scarce commodity in Australia and the aquifer is essential in the production of food and should not be put at risk.

I suggest that as gas is a clean source of energy drilling should be kept to major urban areas such as Sydney where the aquifers are already wrecked and polluted.

World food production is declining and a major concern to United Nations and as Australia is an exporter of food and in the process of our water, such should be safeguarded at all costs.

Unfortunately the Petroleum Act overrides land owners rights to object to exploration and extraction by gas companies.

In NSW previous governments bought back the landowners mineral rights for a pittance so to say these minerals are owned by us all is questionable.

Much more scientific research is required before agricultural lands are raped.

I THEREFOR SUBMIT MY STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE PRESENT METHOD OF GAS EXTRACTION AND SINCERELY HOPE THAT SUCH WILL BE THE CASE UNTIL FURTHER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CONFIRMS WATER IS SAFEGUARDED.

Many thanks for taking the time to read my submission.

Mrs Christine Towndrow

5 September 2011