

**Submission
No 442**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Organisation: Wooyung Action Group

Date received: 5/09/2011

As a small rural community we are dependent on our clean water supply and use of arable lands for agricultural purposes. We believe that the process of "fracking" used in Coal Seam Gas (CSG) mining threatens both of these necessities.

We call on you to legislate to protect rural communities by ensuring that all mining rights and exploration licenses using this process are suspended until it has been shown by independent environmental experts that these processes do not have the potential to contaminate the underground aquifers or our creek/river system.

We ask you to include in new legislation the right of landowners and Shire Councils to refuse access to the land surface of their land.

We call for the prohibition of CSG mining or exploration on any prime agricultural lands, state significant lands or environmental protection zoned lands. Prohibition should also be extended to Crown owned lands until a referendum on this subject is held.

We ask you to recognise the short term gain that the fracking process is set to achieve in comparison to the very long term environmental effects both on water and soil it could potentially create and call on you to ensure rigorous testing of all processes involved.

Please also legislate to ensure all mining and exploration companies are subject to the EPA Act of NSW and all water catchment management legislation active in NSW.

Yours faithfully

Chris Cherry
Spokesperson
Wooyung Action Group