

**Submission
No 107**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mrs Jennifer Pyle

Date received: 31/08/2011

I would like to add my voice to the growing numbers of horrified residents in The Southern Highlands regarding the apparent `steamrolling` of our rights as citizens and residents in this state, with the right to own and live in an area of our choice free from concerns of such greivous ramifications as long wall mining and coal seam gas extraction., and the accompanying destructive chemical issues to our land and community, and health issues that will ensue .

In short my husband and I had yearned to retire to The Southern Highlands for many years so after moving to the area a couple of years ago, we have now purchased a block of land in Exeter, just to complete our dream of building and living there in our retirement - that now will end if Hume Coal is allowed to continue it`s current agenda. Our land is now unsellable, and worth less already and building would be pointless, with the mining ramifications of subsidence etc if the government does not halt this potential disaster.

The damage & pollution of ground water ,aquifers,rivers and dams, and the disposal of large volumes of contaminated water from coal seam gas would be catastrophic. Not to mention the water catchment area for Sydney that would be compromised.

The environmental risks to our farmland, bushland and communitites would be distructive. We must preserve our agricultural land.

One huge concern is our inability to deny land access to a miner under the current NSW law is a violation of our democratic rights.

The rights of mining companies, overseas or local have become a mountain that will crush all that we hold dear as Australians and all will be errevocably lost if you, on this Committee and the NSW Government fail to act in these urgent matters regarding mining.