

**Submission  
No 591**

## **INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS**

**Name:** Ms Carol Durkin

**Date received:** 9/09/2011

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**CAROL DURKIN**

RECEIVED

- 9 SEP 2011

LEGISLATIVE  
COUNCIL

3 September 2011

The Director  
General Purchase Standing Committee No. 5  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

Re: Southern Highlands Coal Seam Gas

I urge you to consider this letter which is also reflective of the official position of the Wingecarribee Shire Council which is 100% against Coal Seam Gas and Coal Mining in our shire.

My heritage property (1832) of 290 ha carries about 250 stud and commercial Black Angus and over 6ha of vineyards for cool climate table wines of high standard.

This prime productive land has continually undergone pasture improvement, tree plantings and fencing to protect the creeks and rain water filled water courses from stock contamination.

In more recent years hundreds of thousands of dollars have been invested to make this property 100% productive over all seasons.

Despite my ongoing search for knowledge, I have yet to see any evidence of proof that coal seam gas and coal mining is both scientifically and environmentally acceptable in established productive 1<sup>st</sup> world countries - particularly from the beginning of the extraction process, through to the completion of mining and the satisfactory restoration of the raped land and dysfunctional communities after the period of the lease.

There is no onus for the various mining enterprises to deposit some billions of money into a Government sinking fund so as to have the ability to rectify any damage to the land or water supply – over the length of the lease.

Indeed these proposed mining leases appear to have no particular minimum financial plan of management and the devil is in the detail – especially when a 30 year lease and its operational standards could be subjected to as many as 10 political philosophical views over the 30 years.

With the abundance of National Parks near to most communities it seems logical to mine in these areas with minimum environmental impact and allow the highly productive food bowls to remain active thus creating an economic balance.

To note, the lack of consultation has been both breathtaking and undemocratic and I am angered that our land its resources are being sold from under our feet with only cryptic information available regarding 'By whom and how much'.

Yours faithfully

Carol Durkin