

**Submission
No 768**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mr Guy Sim

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Guy Sim

5 September 2011

The Director General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Parliament House

Macquarie St Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

Please accept this submission on behalf of my family and my elderly parents. We all currently live in Running Stream which is half way between Lithgow and Mudgee and, unfortunately for use, lies within the western coal fields.

I will address issues within the terms of reference and will base these on documentation furnished by me from several sources.

The environmental and health impact of CSG

Water resources

Australia, as we have been taught since childhood is the driest continent in the world. It is vital to our way of life. It is the **Primary Resource** and needs to be treated accordingly. It is evidence of the greed associated with mining in that water loss is a non-compensable issue and one that is evident in nearly every form of mining.

Running Stream and the Mount Vincent massif do enjoy a higher than average rainfall and is this that fuels our local aquifers and makes the area suitable for all forms of agriculture. CSG and indeed coal extract has the potential to irrevocably destroy these aquifers and the natural springs, bogs, swamps and creeks that they spawn.

We need your help to protect our number one primary resource.

Economic and Social Implications

Everything associated with the coal and coal seam gas extraction is based on greed. Short sighted greed at that.

83% of mining is owned by foreign companies. Centennial Coal is owned by a Thai company. In this case it is probably karma that they are doing to Australians what Australians have been doing to their women and boys for decades.

Get out there and talk to the miners themselves. They know what they are doing is causing irreversible damage to our locality, the local ecosystems and the negative global impact fossil fuels cause. They do it because of the extremely good salaries they earn. The greed is self-perpetuating and totally pervasive to all aspects of mining, and it benefits so few.

The Miners' Union are openly critical of the fact that BHP Billiton make more than \$54 million profit each day and that their wages should be higher. Miners' wages are already way above the average, yet they want more. This is pure greed.

Socially, this impacts immediately on families living within CSG extraction areas. Sons and daughters will be lured to jobs within the mining industry and will be at loggerheads with the traditional values of their upbringing on farms. Farmers respect their land and have learnt from past generations' mistakes such as overgrazing, to become the purest conservationists in the primary industry.

What is the motivation for mining companies to learn? They only need to extract coal and CSG once. There isn't any motivation. Fossil fuels aren't renewable.

This submission is from families who have lived and co-existed with the land for five generations.

We are not greedy people, as with all small farmers we are future orientated and are concerned for our future generations and hope they can continue to live on land that is treated with respect and the nurturing it requires to continue to feed mankind.

Yours sincerely

Guy Sim