

**Submission  
No 188**

## **INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS**

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General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
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#### Submission to the Coal Seam Gas Inquiry

Coal seam gas exploration, mining and production have caused immense damage to the water systems and health of communities world-wide. In the United States, powerful energy companies have influenced legislators to pass laws exempting them from clean air and water acts - this must not be allowed to happen here. Coal seam gas exploration, mining and production must be made subject to all relevant environmental legislation, including vegetation and water management laws.

Potential impacts of coal seam gas exploration, mining and production on the health of people and animals living near the wells, the above ground environment, and the underground water systems must be fully assessed by a truly independent body, before governments decide whether or not to allow coal seam gas exploration, mining and production. Until this is achieved, there should be a full moratorium on all CSG-related activities.

Every citizen of Australia must have legal standing to challenge any decision made regarding the areas opened up to exploration and mining, and the environmental laws and conditions under which the coal seam gas exploration, mining and production takes place.

Coal seam gas exploration, mining and production must be prohibited on valuable farmland, over groundwater aquifers, on important bushland, in State Forests and National and State Parks, in and near residential areas and on public property.

Landowners must have the legal right to refuse to consent to coal seam gas exploration, mining and production on their properties, through a provision in the Petroleum (onshore) Act.

All chemicals used in coal seam gas drilling and the on-going fracking processes must be assessed by the chemical regulator, and the information made available to the public, before permission is given for use.