

**Submission
No 400**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mr Adam Borg

Date received: 6/09/2011

My name is Adam Borg. I am a 31 year old born Australian. I grew up in Greenacre and now live in Green Valley in the west of Sydney. I am an alarm and security technician.

I find it quite disheartening and upsetting that I am forced to have to write this submission. I always thought that one of the main things that governments are responsible for is doing what is in the best interest of the country and all the people of the nation. Unfortunately that is not the case, for I am writing this submission.

First of all I would like to put on the record that I believe all coal seam gas operations should stop as of today in this country. This meaning, new and existing exploration, operations and licenses. They should all be put on hold until all inquiries have been completed into this industry. I believe it is outrageous that this industry has ever been allowed in this pristine country. I find it hard to believe that the people we employ and pay for the rest of their lives, the premiers of the states and all of those in government, even allowed these licenses to be issued to begin with.

I only ask because it took me all of about 2 hours on a computer using google to see that there is a lot of risks that go along with this practice. I also watched a documentary called GASLAND which showed nothing but negative side affects with this industry. This got me worried. Then I watched and recorded a town forum that was held in Leichhardt sometime in July. The forum was televised on the A-Pac channel on the 2nd of August 2011 at 2pm. I found it to be an extremely informative meeting. They had both sides represented, those against and those for coal seam gas mining. Representing the against there was Jeremy Buckingham (from the Greens party), Drew Hutton from the Lock The Gate Alliance and Helen Redman from Doctors For Environment Australia. Representing the for side were two executives from Dart Energy – Mr Ross Dunn and Mr Robin Deweyer. Dart Energy is the company that holds the license and drills the exploration holes for the larger mining companies.

In this town meeting, Ross Dunn and Robin Deweyer, the Dart Energy executives, admit and state, I'll say that again, ADMIT AND STATE, that their drilling of the exploration holes will affect the natural underground aquifers. These executives also did not deny that the drilling process will release naturally stored toxins such as VOC's, Btex' heavy metals, arsenic, radio active particles, lead and uranium and many others into these underground water aquifers. They also admit, again I repeat, they ADMIT that they have no control over what will happen to the coal seam gas when they put it under pressure. It can change where water aquifers run to and the areas they supply water to.

Being that the government has never studied and documented the location of all of these underground aquifers, or where they al supply water to, how you even allow this practice to begin. When you hear just some of the things that these executives have admitted, on that alone, I would question whether to give them a license in the first place. They are unable to control anything, but if something does go wrong they will try their best to fix it. I'm sorry – NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

The problem is, if something does go wrong, and our water sources and our waterways get these toxins in it, by then it's too late. Our water will already be contaminated with carcinogenic, cancer causing chemicals. Then we as a country will have lost the ability to supply drinkable water to it's people and crops, therefore being unable to supply to food to it's people also. If that is the case, then we as a country will be forced to import bottled water and food from other countries, or water from the desalination plant (but I believe Mr O'Farrell is in the process of selling it). The only possible supply of water to NSW if something were to go wrong will be owned by a private entity. I wonder how much a litre of water will cost if it is the only drinkable water source. \$5, \$10, \$15 a litre?

These are just some of the problems that arise with the drilling of exploration holes. When it moves onto the next stage, fracking (which at the before mentioned town forum, the executives did not rule out in the future) is much, much more dangerous and uncontrollable.

In saying all this, my main problem is how this industry and practice was even allowed to begin. It is quite obvious that there was no research and not even a little investigating into the practice of coal seam gas mining and the side affects it may cause, by those that approve the exploration licenses in the first place. These are the same people who have sworn an oath to serve the best interest of this land and its people. The same people we pay with our taxes for the rest of their lives. I only say they gave licenses without due diligence because it took me 2 hours to see that there are way too many risks and dangers to our land and peoples health to be allowing this practice to begin. All of these inquiries should have taken place before the first license was given and the first hole drilled.

In closing I would like to state once again my disgust in having to write this submission in the first place. To try and stop an industry and practice that will more than likely cause massive amounts of damage to this land, water, food and peoples health, and most of all our way of life. To me, this inquest is like having an inquest into Russian roulette. There really is no need for it. That is if you have the country and its people's best interests at heart. It should be simply -- NO THANKYOU. We have too much to risk. I say Russian roulette because that is exactly what these mining companies are being allowed to play with our country. Every time they drill a hole they are happy something doesn't go bang. But just one mistake and it could destroy this country and hurt 20 million peoples way of life.

I understand that every country needs money and foreign investment, and mining is one of the ways of getting rich quick, but the second you put your countries water, food and peoples health at risk for profits, you have betrayed the country and your people. Therefore according to the Oxford Dictionary, you are a traitor to this nation and its people, and in my eyes will forever be one. Personally I would like to see charges brought against Anna Bligh, Kristina Keneally, Barry O'Farrell, Tony Abbott, Julia Gillard and anyone else in government that helped with or did not oppose the approvals little as of this industry, to be charged with treason for they have betrayed us all. Us, the people of this land and the land itself.

So please do what is right by your land and people before it is too late and stop all coal seam gas mining in this county and just do what you swore an oath to and protect your land and people. If you think that the people of this nation love money and all they wish is to be wealthy, then let me tell you, you are wrong. The fair honorable and hard working people of this great nation wish to be self sufficient. This means needing other countries as little as possible to supply water, food, housing and a good way of life for all the people within this nation, and then beyond our nation's borders. I would prefer we export food rather than gas. I believe that if this country was managed correctly we could supply food to many starving nations in the world and could be one of the greatest humanitarian aid contributing countries in the world. I just hope and pray that nothing goes wrong with our food or water due to the coal seam gas industry...because if this does who will be able to supply us with food and water if the world already can not feed all of the starving people.

Do not risk our water and food or your peoples health I beg of you. Please don't go down in history as the ones that destroyed this country. Don't let me and my generation go down in history as the ones that allowed you take make these terrible, irreversible mistakes on our watch.

Thank you for your time,
Adam Borg