

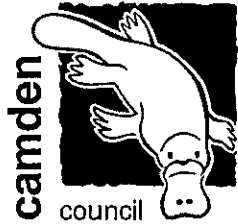
**Submission  
No 343**

## **INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS**

**Organisation:** Camden Council

**Date received:** 8/09/2011

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8 September 2011

The Director

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Parliament House

Macquarie St

Sydney NSW 2000

By on-line lodgement

Dear Sir/Madam,

#### **COAL SEAM GAS INQUIRY**

Camden Council is currently undergoing significant urban growth as part of the release of precincts within the South West Growth Centre. Numerous areas which are already progressing through the rezoning subdivision process, or will be in the near future, are the same areas that the Coal Seam Gas (CSG) industry have plans to develop. With this in mind, Council makes the following points regarding the current operations and future expansion of the CSG Industry in the Camden area:

1. Council is concerned about the serious gaps in knowledge of the true short, medium and long terms effects of CSG wells, in particular, the use of hydraulic fracturing. We recommend that an independent arbitrator be engaged to undertake a thorough review of the existing science from Australia and overseas so that a true and accurate picture of the potential impacts of CSG wells, and the practice of hydraulic fracturing can be

gained. This will also provide the community with confidence that the extraction of the can be undertaken without any adverse affect oo health.

2. Council advocates for improvement in the consultation process between Council, State Government Agencies and the CSG Industry, especially in regard to the development of CSG wells in or near areas already undergoing rezoning and subdivision, or that are likely to undergo rezoning and subdivision in the near future. While existing residents have been consulted future residents located within close proximity of CSG wells also need to be provided for. This is particularly pertinent given the growth in the Camden local government area and the southwest of Sydney in general.
3. CSG wells on land that is, or will become, land under Council's control and potential contamination concerns. Also concern regarding the ongoing liability and management of such land.
4. DIPNR Locational Guidelines (May 2004) are out of date and need to be reviewed/updated. They only refer to likely hazards and risk associated with CSG wells. No mention is made of acoustic impacts. Council also has a number of other concerns with the Locational Guidelines.
5. Security and risk of vandalism/sabotage for CSG wells on public land or in close proximity to.
6. Need for the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, and the NSW Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991 to be better integrated to ensure a clearer process is undertaken.
7. Generally a 200m buffer for between existing dwellings and CSG wells is instituted. Council is concerned that buffer distances are likely to be less that this in areas where rezoning and subdivision has been approved, but houses are yet to be built.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on

**Chris Lalor**

**Acting Manager Strategic Planning**