

**Submission
No 609**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mrs Felicity Carolan

Date received: 15/09/2011

I am very concerned about potential CSG exploration and extraction in our region. My concerns specifically relate to:

1. Lack of relevant legislation
2. Lack of understanding of impacts and accountability of mining companies in the event of damage to underground water or soil for farming and grazing
3. Lack of independent assessment of impacts on underground water reserves for stock & domestic use as well as irrigation
4. Potential risk to Australia's biosecurity in the event agriculture in the area is negatively impacted by contamination from mining
5. Lack of ongoing supervision and monitoring controls both now and once the mining has been exhausted or stopped.
6. Lack of ongoing maintenance of wells into the future
7. Contradiction of a carbon tax while promoting a fossil fuel based energy that could release methane to the atmosphere
8. Contradiction of recent costly government requirements to pipe & cap groundwater bores to increase water pressure while mining will do exactly the opposite
9. Government contradiction to reduce our underground irrigation water licences to preserve water resources (at great initial cost plus ongoing loss of production to individual farms) and then allow mining to access, waste, contaminate and remove this same water.
10. Inequality of short term gain for government and miners at the expense of and risk to Australia's long term sustainable agricultural industry.