

**Submission
No 93**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mr Larry Robertson

Date received: 31/08/2011

Dear Sir/Madam

I strongly object to coal seam gas exploration in all areas of agricultural, historic and scenic significance, including the NSW Southern Highlands (Wingecaribee) and NSW Lowlands (Wollondilly/Camden). Our productive farmlands and natural landscape must be safeguarded for the future and not be subjected to the risk of damage or even destruction for the sake of short term gains.

1. The potential damage and or pollution of ground water and surface water (i.e. aquifers, rivers and dams) and also the issues related to the extraction and disposal of very large volumes of contaminated water from the coal seam. Note also water catchment for Sydney.
2. The environmental risks to our farmland, bushland and communities.
3. The surface impact from Coal Seam Gas infrastructure. Processing facilities, pipelines, compressor stations, roads, water management facilities.
4. Our inability to deny land access to a miner under NSW law. Divisions in communities where individual landholders have granted access without reference to neighbours and communities.
5. Impact on land values which have already been significant.
6. Protection of our productive agricultural land.
7. The need for all chemicals used in coal seam gas drilling or fracking to be assessed and approved by the chemical regulator.
8. The need for rigorous and independent assessment into the impacts of coal seam gas.

Yours faithfully