

**Submission
No 816**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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Draft Submission to Coal Seam Gas Inquiry-I write this submission with the aim of protecting our environment for future generations-my children and grandchildren.
Terms of reference -

1) Environmental and health impact of CSG activities

I believe that CSG mining can cause a serious threat to water resources due to potential for drawdown and contamination of groundwater aquifers,including major cumulative impacts-experts are not giving a firm re-assurance on this issue.This has particular concern for me as I live in the areas of PEL 458 involving the Tomago Sandbeds(proposed Fullerton Cove and Grahamstown pilot wells). No-one seems to be able to give convincing assurances that contaminated production or waste water or saline brine extracted in the process of CSG mining can be disposed of or used with out a significant risk of pollution of either surface water systems or aquifers.I am concerned about leakage into the Tomago Sandbeds.

Coal seam gas is a carbon fuel and significant source of green house gas pollution.Though it maybe a cleaner fuel than coal,CSG when used as a fuel would still make a major contribution to global warming,particularly when fugitive emissions and any liquefaction prior to export are fully considered causing serious threat to peoples health.

2.Economic and social implications of CSG.

CSG mining represents a major threat to natural areas:- A) Leads to extensive clearing and fragmentation of native bushland and threatened species habitat and threatens the risk of castastrophic bushfires.B) Major threat to wetland systems,even distant ones that are hydrologically connected.C) Protected areas and public lands are not safe-CSG mining can occur in areas bordering National Parks and is permitted in State Conservation Areas and Forests. D) likely to impact on local farming,vineyards,organic farming and orchards in the Hunter Valley area in particular.Coal Seam gas is exempt from a number of environmental statutes including Native Vegetation Act 2003 and Water Management Act 2000.

3.Does CSG meet the future needs of NSW?

Coal seam gas is not required to meet the future energy needs of NSW,most gas in NSW is extracted for export.There is lack of information about the whole lifecycle emissions for CSG production.It makes sense to leave it in the ground until all of the adverse social and environmental issues have been adequately addressed.As a resource it can only become more valuable if left as an option for future generations,when and if the threat of carbon pollution and global warming has been averted.

I call on the committee to recommend stronger safeguards including adequate legislation controlling activities on public lands to prevent coal seam gas exploration and mining.To reject Coal Seam Gas mining as a significant part of NSW's energy future.