

**Submission
No 5**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mrs Julie Prowse

Date received: 15/08/2011

CSG Industry cannot co-exist with Agriculture

I have great concerns regarding CSG mining being able to take place on and adjacent Prime Agricultural Land, and the effect that mining will have on water and soils in these areas.

If these fertile areas and their water supply are contaminated by gas exploration and extraction, they will be unable to be farmed in the future. It can never be replaced.

Unfortunately there have already been areas that have been contaminated by gas extraction; from gas leaks and the use of toxic chemicals to extract the gas and I think this is an absolute disgrace.

Areas like the Liverpool Plains and the Darling Downs are some of the most fertile and productive areas in the world and here we are allowing exploration drilling and mining to take place without a blink of an eye. This gas exploration and mining has been able to take place without the proper safety checks it requires, and this has had very dire consequences, especially overseas and now in the Darling Downs. This cannot be ignored.

With the world's population growing rapidly and arable land disappearing fast, due to being mined, and from the effects of climate change, I think that it is so important that we look after these beautifully fertile lands, which will feed our children and grandchildren and many generations to come. They will be the one's to suffer, if mining is allowed to take place on such Prime Agricultural Land.

Mining is such a short term fix to the economy, whereas farming, especially in these exceptionally fertile regions such as the Liverpool Plains and the Darling Downs, has always and will always give a great deal to the Australian economy and its people.

I oppose the rampant exploitation of our country by the CSG Industry. This industry will harm many to benefit few.

Michael and Julie Prowse
Farmers, Liverpool Plains