

Submission
No 665

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 6/09/2011

Partially Confidential

I oppose coal seam gas mining, and any other technique that uses hydraulic fracturing or similar processes, on the following grounds:

- Chemical alteration of coal seams and shale (target strata) is environmentally damaging
- Chemical fracturing of the target strata is environmentally damaging
- The chemicals migrate over large distances underground, and do so over very long periods of time
- Some of the chemicals used are known human carcinogens, and are dangerous to workers, residents and all life forms including plants above and below the ground.
- This technique is very different to mechanical mining techniques, and must be controlled by new legislation that is designed to control it.
- The damage done by this technique is not fully understood yet, as it is relatively new, but the consequences are obviously dire. There is enough evidence from the United States, United Kingdom, and our own experiences to know that new controls are absolutely essential for the safety of people, living things and the natural environment.
- The Australian economy may be badly damaged by this mining technique over the long term, as damage to productive farmlands will have far-reaching consequences.

I am a landholder in the NSW Southern Highlands, near the township of Bungonia. I have made myself familiar with "fracking" practices and investigated the impact. I am not satisfied that the practice can be undertaken safely, even if miners are monitored, because the practice is inherently damaging at a deep and permanent level. It is clearly more harmful than conventional mining, due to the chemical injection processes. The full impact of the technique over time is not yet known.

Submission.

Hydraulic fracturing for gas extraction (coal seam or shale).

I wish to register my opposition to this practice on several grounds:

- Chemical alteration of coal seams and shale (target strata) is environmentally damaging
- Chemical fracturing of the target strata is environmentally damaging
- The chemicals migrate over large distances underground, and do so over very long periods of time
- Some of the chemicals used are known human carcinogens, and are dangerous to workers, residents and all life forms including plants above and below the ground.
- This technique is very different to mechanical mining techniques, and must be controlled by new legislation that is designed to control it.
- The damage done by this technique is not fully understood yet, as it is relatively new, but the consequences are obviously dire. There is enough evidence from the United States, United Kingdom, and our own experiences to know that new controls are absolutely essential for the safety of people, living things and the natural environment.
- The Australian economy may be badly damaged by this mining technique over the long term, as damage to productive farmlands will have far-reaching consequences.

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