

**Submission
No 404**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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“Coal Seam Gas” (methane) is a powerful greenhouse gas, more dangerous than carbon dioxide. Australian experience is that significant quantities of this greenhouse gas escape into the atmosphere from most CSG wells. The more wells that are sunk, the greater the volume of methane that pollutes the atmosphere.

The fact that CSG is cleaner than coal is offset by its emissions from CSG wells. Fortunately for Australia, there is an alternative fuel to make the transition to a “clean energy future”. That alternative is offshore “natural gas” (methane) which is currently being exported, rather than conserved for domestic use to reduce Australia’s “carbon footprint”.

There is a second problem with CSG, a problem unique to Australia, the driest inhabited continent on earth whose legacy from the ages is the Great Artesian Basin, life blood of the inland. Each CSG bore that is sunk, punctures that vast water reservoir and compromises its potential to sustain inland pastoral and agricultural industries.

CSG is safer where it is: buried in the earth. NSW should negotiate with the Commonwealth to receive its fair share of offshore liquefied natural gas as a transitional fuel until alternative renewable energy becomes available such as solar thermal energy west of the Great Dividing Range and onshore and offshore wind turbine energy east of the Divide.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. David Tranter, OAM, D.Sc.