

**Submission
No 802**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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This is a personal submission, seated in the context of the declining condition of the natural environment of New South Wales, and in particular of the State's water resources.

CSG extraction is dependent upon extraction of large quantities of groundwater. It is essential to the future prosperity and wellbeing of the people of NSW that there is adequate regulation of CSG extraction activities. The CSG industry must be made subject to water management regulations and all other environmental protection legislation. CSG extraction should be governed by the same environmental regulations as other industries.

There is a lack of scientific knowledge of the impact on water bodies by the dewatering of coal seams, essential for the extraction of CSG. The principles of ecologically sustainable development should be applied to CSG extraction activities, especially the precautionary principle and the principle of inter-generational equity.

Make good obligations of proponents will often continue beyond the life of the tenure. Regulation must be in place and enforced to ensure that proponents are held accountable to make good after CSG extraction has finished.

The imposition of CSG wells upon privately owned land should not be permitted without the willing consent of the landholder.

With regard to the whole-of-lifecycle emission intensity of CSG versus other energy sources, there must be an accurate independent assessment of CSG as a fuel embracing Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions to establish scientific fact.

A full cost-benefit analysis of the impacts of the proposed mature CSG industry on the wider economy is essential and has not been done. Financial benefits must be offset against damage to agricultural land, food production, soil, water and air quality, recreational environment, and human health.