

**Submission
No 461**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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Submission to CSGa

Only 3 weeks ago we went to the first community meeting about CSG. Our small town had over 130 people in the hall and none were happy.

We've seen the movie, read the flyers, heard the speakers. But all of that is secondary to one fundamental fact. We should not have to live in fear of some money making company coming onto our land and making it uninhabitable, unsellable and ruining lives. Or that matter coming onto our neighbours land and having the same effect.

Yes mining must exist, but not at the expense of existing lifestyles and communities.

We are not buying into St Peters and complaining about the aircraft noise. (Though they would never have expected CSG to be in their backyard!). We have chosen to live here for the beautiful country and healthy lifestyle. We have made our business work from a remote area – what the NBN is aimed at – and chosen to live a simpler way. Bulahdelah is already struggling to adjust to the highway bypass, which it will do. It has survived the dairy industry changes and adapted to beef farming, chicken farming, and food bowl areas. CSG is not a complementary industry to anything that involves animals, plants and people. Civilians must be protected from mining bullying and the law must be changed to manage the miners, They have far too much power.

The trouble is that the exploration is running at break neck speed without checks and balances. What is the point of short term \$ in the government coffers if it will be liable for huge compensations down the line. Not necessarily due to environmental effects , though quite likely, but to landholders and food producers for loss of income.

Even in areas where communities would not be destroyed by the mining it is still incredibly gun ho to go ahead without absolute guarantees on the security of the groundwater for ever. What is the point of all the environmental expenditure and

reforms if we let this risky, dirty, toxic industry have its head.

Please use common sense and ethics. Look to a long-term future vision. In 50 years we will be out of time and probably too late to remedy our self inflicted ills.