

**Submission
No 842**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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I am very concerned about the rapid development of the coal seam gas industry and its impact on our water, health and environment.

In the mining process the extraction of large quantities of water drastically reduces the capacity in our groundwater systems and threatens the Great Artisan Basin. In July 2011 the National Water Commissioner publicly stated that the CSG industry presents significant potential risks to water and water management as a result of the scale of the development of the sector.

Water quality is also threatened. The use and release of BTEX chemicals can cause the contamination of our waterways. Just in the last few months there was an uncontrolled gas and water release at a CSG well near Campbelltown. The NSW Environmental Minister issued a formal warning to the company AGL which was found to be in breach of its environmental protection license. A recent report shows that fracking near water bores increases methane levels in those bores to potentially explosive levels. Fracking has been banned in other countries because of the risks involved; Australians should not be subjected to those risks.

Claims that CSG is a clean, low emission technology are not supported by science, the small amount of research that has been done indicates it has little if any benefit over coal fired power.

CSG mining impacts on communities and individuals in regard to their health and social well being with the right given to mining companies to access private land creates anxiety and frustration in communities and families. It impacts on land values, it also threatens food supplies where CSG mining is carried out on agricultural lands.

Coal Seam Gas Mining is not going to be worth the dreadful, adverse effects it will have on our water, our environment or our health.