

**Submission
No 160**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

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LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL

The Director

30/08/2011

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

To whom it may concern,

In regards to the mining of CSG I ask that the following points be exammend.

A full moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling until the environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed.

Coal seam gas exploration and mining to be made subject to all relevant environmental legislation, including the native vegetation and water management laws.

The provision of standing to ensure that the community has full legal rights to challenge and enforce environmental laws under which coal seam gas companies are operating.

The provision of a right in the Petroleum (Onshore) Act to allow landholders to refuse consent for coal seam gas exploration or production on their land.

A prohibition on coal seam gas exploration and mining in important bushland, valuable farmland, groundwater aquifers, residential areas and public lands.

A requirement that all chemicals used in coal seam gas drilling or fracking must be assessed by the chemical regulator for use for that purpose before being approved for use.

Food security is threatened by risks to groundwater and loss of arable land.

It is likely to impact negatively on a whole range of other industries such as organic farming, tourism, vineyards and orchards.

Coal seam gas is not required to meet the future energy needs of NSW. Most gas in NSW is extracted for export, not to meet local energy needs.

There is a lack of information about the whole lifecycle emissions for CSG production. US studies suggests unconventional gas has huge fugitive emission impacts.

The only way to deliver energy security is to switch to renewable energy now, particularly solar thermal. There are vast solar thermal resources in the major areas where CSG is now proposed, such as Narrabri and Moree.

The massive expansion in coal seam gas production is delaying the transition to renewable energy alternatives.

With Regards

Lachlan Woolley