

Submission
No 301

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 7/09/2011

Partially Confidential

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Submission to "Inquiry into Coal Seam Gas"

General Purpose Standing Committee No 5.

From:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am opposed to Coal Seam Gas in the Widdien Valley and surrounding areas of Boorami Creek, Kerabee + Martindale.

My concerns are the impact Coal Seam Gas may have on the water aquifers which are vital for the survival of all living things e.g. humans, flora + fauna.

Surface + underground aquifers also play a necessary role in the production of agricultural produce.

Any tampering or contamination of the natural water tables could be catastrophic and not repairable.

The above valleys that I referred to, are narrow and it is essential that all the arable land be used for agriculture. This will be needed for food security.

Coal Seam Gas in these valleys

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would change them completely. The unsightliness of drilling rigs, pipelines, compressor stations, well heads, heavy vehicle movements, roads etc would change our quiet and picturesque valleys into an industrial nightmare. And what would all of this do to the Wollemi National Park that surrounds us?

This industry of Coal Seam Gas seems to be completely out of hand with very little regulation and with no regard for owners of properties. Property owners must have equal rights.

Who is going to be under the ground where the drilling is being done, to monitor what is happening and what methane gas is escaping?

Even if in theory this process of Coal Seam Gas can be done, I believe the practical extraction is subject to human error and huge problems, thus calling for very strict regulation.

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These narrow valleys of Widdien Valley, Baeremi Creek and Mastindale are also prone to extreme events of flood & fire. These natural forces could destroy any infrastructure and cause contamination and poisoning.

It is necessary for the directors of the companies that tamper with these natural features e.g. water tables, scenic value and prime agricultural land be personally held accountable for their actions and not hide behind the corporate veil.

Yours sincerely,