Submission No 596

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Organisation: Committee of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, Gold Coast Branch

Date received: 7/09/2011

Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld
Gold Coast & Hinterland

Date: 7 September 2011

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No 5
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To Committee Members

As environmentalists committed to preserving an Australia in which our decendants would wish to live and thank us for preserving for them we ask you prove your interest in their future by acting in accordance with the following points:

1. You must ask for a full moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling until the environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed.
2. Coal seam gas exploration and mining to be made subject to all relevant environmental legislation, especially including areas of high ecological value and water management laws.
3. There is a need for an assessment of the cumulative impacts of the industry.
4. There is a need for accurate reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and these emissions must be mitigated.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. A prohibition on coal seam gas exploration and mining in areas of high ecological significance, valuable farmland, groundwater aquifers and springs, residential areas and public lands.
8. 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.
9. A responsibility for any damage caused by applied chemicals which enter the water table or those toxic & radioactive chemicals which are forced up from deep underground which damage neighbouring properties, watercourses and town environments is enforced by law which you might draw up.

We must trust that you who are in positions of power will not abuse it, will use it wisely and have the welfare of present and future Australians at heart and will leave them air to breathe, water to drink and food to eat.

Clearly many of the above requirements are not as yet in place so you must vote for a full moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling until the environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed.

A Sutherland – for the President

Committee of The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, Gold Coast Branch