

Submission
No 262

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially Confidential

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The Director, General Purpose Standing Committee No 5
Parliament House,
Macquarie St., Sydney. 2000.

Coal Seam Gas Subm Enquiry Submission.

I am totally opposed to the introduction of the Coal Seam Gas (CSG) industry in NSW. for the following reasons.

1. Unlike most other mining extractive industries it is spread over a large area of surface land (ie. a borehead and extraction equipment every 500m then piping and roads and recently the supply of electricity by overhead power lines to each borehead.)

This will greatly disrupt normal farming activities such as aerial spraying and any spraying due to OH & S concerns of CSG workers.

2. Being spread over a large area the possibility of interference and pollution of the water table and/or artesian basin (irrigation, stock and domestic and water for farming operations.) is too high a risk.

3. The science of CSG extraction and fracking is not conclusive. Flammable gas escaping from borehead piping and water bores is alarming.

4. Saltwater. The treatment and handling of the saltwater produced in the fracking process, and delivered to the surface, with the CSG is extremely worrying.

5. Food security must have higher importance than short term economic gains.

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6. CSG companies rarely buy the land they mine and also pay extremely small compensation for the inconvenience.

7. Rehabilitation of the surface land and air and underground stratas is a major concern.

May I conclude with my complete disapproval and disappointment with the NSW State government in the way they administer mining in this State. The government sells mineral exploration licences for hundreds of millions of dollars to exploration companies and then, turns them loose on their constituents to go into battle with them over access agreements and then, if minerals are found the government then sells mining licences to companies who are then thrust on the constituents to battle with over mining.

This is a totally unacceptable and immoral act.

The invalid acts (i) of the Wran govt in excising landowners rights to the minerals below the top soil; and

ii) of the Carr govt to only allow 10% of the run-off water to be stored on farm and the collusion with the Australian govt to disallow use of native vegetation to meet Kyoto Climate change targets; completely oppose Common law rights of land ownership where title holders own to infinity above the land surface and to infinity below the land surface.