

**Submission
No 129**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mr Heski Wakil

Date received: 1/09/2011

I would like to make a submission against any coal seam gas mining or long wall mining in the Southern Highlands. The area is a sensitive environmental area and tourist destination and belonging to the Sydney Catchment Area. Any possibility to contaminate or use vast amounts of water must be stopped. We have lived in the Southern Highlands for 34 years on large acreage and recently we subdivided our property and one of the conditions was that a large portion of our property was deemed by Sydney Catchment as sensitive enough to put a positive mandate on that portion which locks up that area and protects it.

Surely the mining industry should be not be allowed to mining in the Catchment area as much of it is more sensitive than our property. We have seen mining crack aquifers, pollute water and cause illness in the past. Please don't let this happen again and sacrifice our unique resource for a short term gain.

Land owners must have more say with their property and have the ability to deny access. Many have spent generations building up a property only to find that mining enters a region like the Southern Highlands and the value of life and property suffers. There is a place for mining but not on the Southern Highlands.