

**Submission
No 420**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mr David Quince

Date received: 19/09/2011

1st September 2011

The Director

The General Purpose Standing Committee

Parliament House

Macquarie Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

Re: Inquiry into Coal Seam Gas.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission for the above inquiry. I am the Chairman of the Mullaley Gas Pipeline Accord and have been a farmer and grazier in this area for many years. Our group represents over 100 farmers whose properties are located on the proposed pipeline route from the Narrabri to Wellington. This pipeline has been proposed by Eastern Star Gas and is to carry CSG for export from Newcastle.

We feel this route to be totally unsuitable for a number of reasons which I will list in my submission. In summary, this pipeline, like other CSG infrastructure will severely impinge upon the farming activities of this highly productive region. It will damage the environment and destroy many sites of Aboriginal significance and as well as the early history of the region.

Please do not hesitate to contact me. I am happy for my submission to be put onto the website.

Yours sincerely

DAVID QUINCE

CHAIRMAN OF THE MULLALEY GAS PIPELINE ACCORD

WHY THE PROPOSED PIPELINE IS AN UNSUITABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE LIVERPOOL SLOPES AND PLAINS – POINT FORM.

1. There are at least thirty nine officially recognised Indigenous Sites either directly on, or nearby along the proposed pipeline route. We believe that there will be many more sites of aboriginal and cultural significance discovered as the project proceeds. These sites will be destroyed.
2. The Director General's Requirements insist that all trees must be removed within a forty meter corridor of the actual pipeline which would result in the destruction of any Scar Trees – which are of cultural significance to all of us.
3. Along the proposed pipeline are the important remains of the Diprotodons, a prehistoric mammal that also holds considerable importance and connection to history of indigenous people and other Australians.
4. Native Vegetation of immense value to this unique area will also be removed permanently in the form of [a] Box Gum Woodlands and [b] Weeping Myall Forests. The destruction of Native Grasslands (as listed under the EPBC Act) would in turn impact on many endangered native animal species. This area is a well-known koala bear habitat.
5. The soils in this area are known as self-mulching black basalt soils – extremely fragile and highly erodible which has created all sorts of problems for other forms of infrastructure such telephone cables. Ongoing maintenance problems have plagued these types of utilities. The RTA road culverts eg - Mc Burnies Crossing between Mullaley & Tambar Springs – has created massive and expensive erosions which has impacted upon the environment and changed surface water courses.
6. The more recent and smaller Central Ranges Pipeline has created massive erosion problems as discussed in submissions made from my colleagues.
7. Should approval be given for this highly unsuitable project, there is an alternative route with far fewer environmental impacts along the Newell Highway.

8. This route has none of the very important indigenous or environmental issues as mentioned above. The Newell Highway already carries pipelines to the south. This route makes the pipeline easily accessible for maintenance and does not impact upon the farmers of the Liverpool Plains.
9. Finally, we would hope some level of decency as well as respect for our concerns and wishes would be adhered to regarding this matter.

The presence of this pipeline will open the Liverpool Plains up to coal seam gas extraction. This unique and pristine area must be preserved for future food security. Our aquifers must be protected to continue to provide the farmers and communities of this area with water to grow crops, for cattle and sheep and the many productive agricultural industries and communities of this area.