

**Submission
No 888**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Mr Jeff French

Date received: 11/11/2011

Submission. Coal Seam Gas

Jeff French

Dear member

We live in the pristine Manning Valley, on the NSW Mid North Coast. Agriculture is our way of life. Farming is how our community survives. Whether it is the production of livestock or vegetables and fruit, our whole community depends on it, directly or indirectly. The sale yards, the abattoirs, the tractor dealers and the mechanics, the stockmen and women, the bank staff, take away, real estate and Coles employees just to name a few, all rely on agriculture. Everything in this part of the world relies on food production, without it this part of the world withers and dies.

Coal Seam gas is a real threat to this and other environments. Our valley is blessed with a high rainfall, we regularly record between 1500mm and 1800mm per year on my small acreage. Ground water and springs are common. We are blessed with unique flora and fauna. We can sit and watch platypus swim and play in the quiet streams that are abundant. We can drink from springs that flow from the ground and know that it is safe for us and our livestock, while wedgetailed eagles and kites circle above.

When our valley is threatened with Coal Seam Gas mining we are understandably going to be upset. CSG mining is just not safe for the environment. The effects of fracking can be disastrous, the chemicals that come from the coal seam can and will pollute our water above and below the ground. This is not necessarily from the chemicals used in the fracking process but from chemicals released from the coal seam itself. Trailing ponds from mining expose wildlife to deadly waste water and when it rains they overflow.

We know that agriculture and mining do not mix and with the world population expected to double by 2050 food far outweighs CSG. We will find ways to create energy and renewable is the way which we should be heading, not the so called clean gas solution.

If CSG mining can't be stopped here and in other areas then regulation and penalties must be tough. Mining companies will be overseen by independent bodies who will test for any contamination to the environment. Companies will guarantee that all measures possible be implemented to ensure that fracturing the ground will only occur where it is intended and monitor by seismic devices. They must also have a member from the above mentioned body on site when fracturing is to occur and onsite for 10 days per month to monitor operations, all costs to be paid by the company who is mining or exploring. Persons monitoring sites from the independent body will be rotated monthly to ensure clarity of compliance.

Fines for companies must far outweigh what they make from their venture should there be any adverse impact on the environment. Company board members, CEO's and responsible employees must face huge individual fines and gaol time in excess of 5 years minimum, mining licences revoked, members unable to be ever allowed to sit as board members of any companies in the future and all company assets seized. Foreign companies responsible will comply with these regulations and governments of these countries will give access to individuals as part of their right to be able to mine and explore here.

We don't want our land used, abused and left stagnant by hungry greedy oil companies.

Jeff French 5/9/2011