

**Submission  
No 521**

## **INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS**

**Name:** Mrs Julie McNamara

**Date received:** 7/09/2011

---

Dear Sir,

I would like to add my submission against Coal Seam Gas Mining in NSW.

I think there is enough evidence available now from what has already occurred in Queensland and around the world, for our state and federal government to stop this industrial activity until its risks can be properly assessed.

It must be fully appreciated that Australia is the driest continent on Earth, hardly the place to allow billions of megalitres of water to be used to extract coal gas, and to risk the contamination of underground water supplies. Many residents in NSW have just seen the end of a drought, one of the worst to ever hit this country and we are still in recovery from it. Global warming is a fact that state and federal government has recognised, so it appears to be fool hardy in the extreme to ever put the water supply at risk, especially with the weather conditions predicted for the future.

Many country residents were left without water during this drought, and fresh drinking water needed to be trucked in when sweet bore water wasn't available. If our underground water supplies should be contaminated because of this industry, how does government plan to supply residents with fresh household water into an indeterminable future?

Further to this, I believe we will confront an enormous risk of fire. Again, because of its naturally dry environment, the risk of fire should always be taken into account. Much of this country is blanketed by a thick fog every morning. Should methane gas be allowed to escape from well heads, pipelines and fissure from the earth, how will the gas escape into the atmosphere? These fog blankets can stretch for hundreds of kilometres, if a fire should accidentally be ignited, what hope would we have of it being extinguished. It would explode like a bomb!

Another thing that concerns me is the future of the next generation, and the one to come after. Already Australia has lost most of its manufacturing industries. Its farming industry is struggling and unemployment is high with many people across Australia now relying on the tourist industry in some form or another. Most of the problems seen in Australia today are seen by many people including myself as being caused by governments bad decisions, mismanagement and wasted monies. The introduction of coal seam gas mining on the scale envisaged by government is the worst decision so far, because if this ends up being just another bad decision, another mistake, there will be no turning back, the damage will be done. Farming will be a thing of the past, and Australia will be dependent on the importation of food from other countries. With so many of Australia's essential services being privatised, people are already anxious about our future, but the thought of losing our food independence is just too much.

Jobs now supported by the tourist industry will be a thing of the past too. Tourist coming to Australia, as well as domestic tourists won't want to travel to see mining rigs and fouled water, against a back drop of our once beloved "outback" or our beautiful forests destroyed to make room for an industrial landscape. Where will the jobs be for the generations to come? What will they eat and drink? Coal or gas?

Coal and coal gas is a quick and easy way for the government to make money, but the people expect the government to run the country for now, and to look after it for the future. We don't want a quick fix.

Coal fired power or coal seam gas we already know is an industry that must come to an end if the world is to reverse or reduce climate change. Not only isn't it right that we shouldn't use it, we shouldn't sell it to other countries either. Coal in all forms seems to be a dirty industry, we should be turning away from it in any of its forms. Coal gas sold as clean, green power is a lie!

When Julia Gillard talked of a tax for a clean, green renewable energy most people thought she was talking honestly to them. We thought the tax would go to new technology for wind and wave, solar or thermal energy, instead she was banking on the coal seam gas....shameful and deceptive. Don't let NSW government be a part of this deceptive betrayal of the people.

Please put a stop to coal seam gas mining until questions such as how are we going to get rid of the toxic waste?

How can we produce our own food into the future?

Where will we get the water from to allow the mining?

How can we be sure we will not contaminate under ground water systems?

When will we be sure that this industry isn't a health risk?

What effects will it have on our environment and how can land already damaged be rehabilitated?

Who will pay for the damage to both the environment and the peoples health?

Until all these questions and more are answered by an independent review we should cease all coal mining operations.

I do not think the CSIRO is independent enough to do an unbiased review, especially when the research for it will be paid for by the coal gas industry.

For your information, I have attended an EDO workshop where a representative from the APPEA (Ross Dunn) gave a presentation where he gave the industries view. Needless to say I was less than impressed and my concerns were not addressed or alleviated.

**WE MUST HAVE A MORATORIUM ON COAL GAS SEAM MINING!**