

**Submission
No 166**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 2/09/2011

Partially Confidential

9/2/2011

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

Dear Sir/ Madam,

r.e. The Coal Seam Gas inquiry, 2011

I am writing you regarding the Coal Seam Gas inquiry, to be conducted by the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5; as I am aware that its purpose is to inquire into and report on the environmental, health, economic and social impacts of coal seam gas activities. In my local community there are many surrounding towns and villages which have been designated as work sites or mines and potential gas mines. Our community is concerned about the impacts of this movement on the future of the environment and for the health and wellbeing of humans and animals relying on the land and water.

I request:

- A full moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling until the environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed
- Coal seam gas exploration and mining to be made subject to all relevant environmental legislation, including the native vegetation and water management laws
- The provision of standing to ensure that the community has full legal rights to challenge and enforce environmental laws under which coal seam gas companies are operating
- The provision of a right in the Petroleum (Onshore) Act to allow landholders to refuse consent for coal seam gas exploration or production on their land
- A prohibition on coal seam gas exploration and mining in important bushland, valuable farmland, groundwater aquifers, residential areas and public lands
- A requirement that all chemicals used in coal seam gas drilling or fracking must be assessed by the chemical regulator for use for that purpose before being approved for use

It is of great importance that these areas be explored as, I see, they are the bare minimum necessary to ensure the safety and sustainability of this process on environmental, economic, social and health accounts.

Regards,