

**Submission
No 688**

INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS

Name: Ms Susie Forster

Date received: 7/09/2011

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Parliament House
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Sydney NSW 2000
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To The General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5,

Submission regarding the NSW Upper House Coal Seam Gas Inquiry

I am writing to express my deepest concern about Coal Gas Seam mining in Australia. This practise is not proven to be safe for water systems or to the people who live close to the mines. There is MUCH evidence that the practise can be dangerous to your health, and the health of the land and the water. Santos can whistle all they like about the wonders of CGS mining- France has BANNED it.

I understand these to be the most important issues at stake, and would submit that:

1. A full moratorium on all forms of coal seam gas drilling until the environmental, social and health impacts have been rigorously and independently assessed.
2. Coal seam gas exploration and mining to be made subject to all relevant environmental legislation, including the native vegetation and water management laws.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. A prohibition on coal seam gas exploration and mining in important bushland, valuable farmland, groundwater aquifers, residential areas and public lands.
6. 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.

Sincerely,
Susie Forster