

To whom it may concern

This email will arrive on the day submissions close, but I was only made aware those living outside the area where mining exploration is being considered are allowed to have a say.

I hope therefore you will accept my submission, and I thank you for the opportunity to present it.

Please also acknowledge it is far from being a fully referenced submission, more a hurriedly written, but no less heartfelt request from an ordinary, and very concerned, Australian citizen who urges extreme caution be taken before pursuing a path which all the evidence from other communities, in other countries, has shown can prove to be both utterly disastrous.

The social, environmental and economic risks associated with coal seam gas exploration – or fracking as it is commonly being called – have proved irreversible in numerous areas. There are far too many dangerous unknowns from this practice, and to conduct them in a country where such resources are already fragile and threatened would be the height of irresponsibility on the part of both business and government.

Nothing is more important than an uncontaminated water supply and healthy land to grow food. To therefore consider sinking mines on areas of land that are considered prime agricultural is – to put it bluntly – both stupid, and arguably criminally negligent, on the part of any organisation or government that authorises it.

With a national health system under impossible strain, how can any state or federal government even think of increasing such strain by a potential public health risk from the harmful chemical cocktails unleashed through fracking, or mining disturbance?

It is insane. There are alternative, smarter and cleaner ways towards producing Australia's future energy and power supplies. I urge government and business to invest in researching and developing them. For the sake of the nation and its people.

Thank you again for the opportunity to have a say in this very important issue.

Yours sincerely

*Anne Layton-Bennett*