

SENT: Thu 11/08/2011 9:38 AM

Dear Committee on Coal Seam Gas enquiry

I write to you in regards to the coal seam gas enquiry in NSW. I will try to keep this short as I assume you may have many to read and little time, but I feel it very urgent to make a few points to you on this issue.

Firstly that it is blatantly obvious that coal seam gas extraction pollutes underground and surface water with chemicals and methane. America has already trialled this for us and the fact that people in areas where gas mining is occurring, are able to light their tap water on fire, is to me irrefutable proof that this practice will be detrimental to our water quality.

Secondly I wish to point out that the gas company's claims that this type of gas production is green and clean is a serious lie. Many of these wells have been known to leak constantly (but not obviously in a visual sense) at a rate of 1L of methane per minute. That is 1440L of methane a day and 525600L of methane per year. As methane is known to be 20 times more effective than CO₂ that would be equal to 10 512 000L of CO₂ per year, per leaking gas well and there is no way that is clean and green. Not to mention there have already been cases of exploding wells in Northern NSW and Southern QLD which pose a serious danger to locals and there is no way of ensuring that these explosions will not occur.

There is also the compression of this gas into liquid, a process which is estimated to use, almost, twice as much energy than is obtained from the final product. This is incredibly inefficient in comparison to the energy that can be obtained from renewable sources which are readily available and only held back by pressure from fossil fuel companies and lack of incentive from governments. When considering the dangers to Australia's already marginal water supply and the damage that will be done to local communities and economies dependent on a healthy environment (ie. food producers) it seems a criminal act to allow a few companies the right to compromise the lives of so many Australians.

Please do not sell our futures overseas, all our livelihoods depend on looking after the marginal water, soils and biodiversity we have left. These are our true resources, without these we cannot grow food, we cannot grow our communities and we certainly cannot call ourselves clean and green. Don't let some greedy corporations take our resources, they are for all people and it is as good as genocide to allow a company to compromise our livelihoods, futures and health so they can make a profit for themselves. Please seriously and objectively consider the impacts of this operation and do not let those companies bribe or bully you into granting permission. Don't do to us what America did to their residents who are now suffering illness and poor water quality because of greedy corporations overriding their rights of access to clean water and air.

Thank you

Sincerely
Elfian Schieren