



Review of Coal Seam Gas Activities in NSW

Graeme to: csg.review

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History:

This message has been replied to and forwarded.

To: NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer

I wish to make a Public Submission to the Review of Coal Seam Gas Activities in NSW, especially focusing on the impacts of these activities on human health and the environment.

I suggest that the review should be broadened so that the Chief Scientist and Engineer is tasked with

- Commissioning rigorous independent scientific research to properly assess the risks of coal seam gas mining
- identify best practice methods for base-line monitoring of health impacts, water resources, air quality, soil quality and fugitive emissions
- identify areas of NSW that should be off-limits to coal seam gas mining, due to unacceptable risks and impacts
- review the impacts of coal seam gas mining on agriculture and other affected industries such as tourism and manufacturing

Terms of Reference:

- 1) The review should consider all incidents of non-compliance by coal seam gas companies across NSW and Australia.
- 2) Until there is significant base-line data across the whole of NSW, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to measure the impact of coal seam gas mining on the natural environment and mining should not proceed until this base-line data and a proper on-going process to monitor human health, water, soil and air quality as well as fugitive emissions is firmly in place. No go zones must be identified and created for important natural areas as well as farmland and most importantly, water resources.
- 3) Best practice in coal seam gas management should include a 5km exclusion zone from residential areas, a minimum 2km exclusion around all residential buildings, mandatory health impact assessments and the right for communities and individuals to say No.
- 4) As part of the review, the Chief Scientist should visit areas where coal seam gas mining is being conducted and also areas where it is being explored or proposed.
- 5) What is needed is independent scientific research to assess the risk from coal seam gas operations, comprehensive base-line surveys and on-going monitoring of human and environmental health factors

Warmest regards

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