



Review of impacts of CSG upon human health and the environment

Louise Somerville to: csg.review@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au

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History:

This message has been replied to and forwarded.

22 April, 2013

To the Chief Scientist,

The current practices of coal seam gas extraction need to be halted until there has been independent scientific research carried out to comprehensively assess the risks of coal seam gas mining on human health and the environment. This mining is far too intrusive upon the living areas of Australians to be permitted to continue until such testing is done. The effects on human health the world over demonstrates this point.

No conclusive baseline monitoring of health impacts upon human beings, air quality, soil quality, water resources or fugitive emissions has been done. As Chief Scientist I am sure you would agree it is ludicrous to think a government could unleash such industry upon communities with NO baseline monitoring. I have met many families in Tara, Queensland where this industry has been unleashed and witnessed first-hand the drying of nasal passages and headaches myself. This was from being in the area less than 3 hours. To think small children whom eat, breathe and ingest more on a weight basis to adult humans could be subjected to these noxious gases escapes me.

The Chief Scientist needs to immediately identify independently the areas at high risk of contamination in NSW e.g. current protected resources, food-growing land, parklands, marshlands and water catchment areas.

The Chief Scientist must review the impacts of coal seam gas on agriculture and other affected industries such as tourism and manufacturing.

At a minimum there should be a minimum 5km exclusion from residential zones, a minimum 2km exclusion from all residential dwellings and mandatory health impact assessments carried out. The right for communities to say no is vital.

METGASCO is currently decommissioning wells in our region. Who is monitoring this process? I invite you, the Chief Scientist, to come to our area and use science to check all procedures have been carried out 100% to recommendations. With their history of errors I doubt it.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Louise Somerville

Library Technician/wife and mother of four

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