



History: This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Dear Sir/Madam,

1. Call for broadening of the Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the review should be broadened so that the Chief Scientist is tasked with:

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

2. Address existing Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference 1 – coal seam gas compliance failures in my local area:

Energy company AGL has breached its environment protection licence by failing to properly monitor emissions from a gas plant south-west of Sydney since 2009. The coal seam gas processing plant at Rosalind Park, near Menangle, operated between 2009 and last year without continuous monitoring of nitrogen oxide emissions, as required by its licence.

Terms of Reference 2 – there are many gaps in managing coal seam gas risks in NSW, including the lack of baseline data and on-going monitoring on health, water, air quality and fugitive emissions. The most fundamental risk management strategy must be the creation of strict no-go zones for farmland, water resources and important bushland.

Terms of Reference 3 – the best practice in CSG management should include a minimum 5km exclusion from residential zones, a minimum 2km exclusion from all residential dwellings, mandatory health impact assessments, and the right for communities to say no.

Terms of Reference 6 – what is needed is independent scientific research to assess the risks from coal seam gas operations and comprehensive baseline monitoring, not more information sheets.

Regards,

Jenny Seymour