



History:

This message has been replied to and forwarded .

Submission to the Chief Scientist and Engineer re coal seam gas activities in NSW with a focus on the impacts of these activities on human health and the environment.

I am a botanist and farmer residing in the Northern Rivers area of NSW.

My submission refers to the Terms of Reference 2: "identify and assess any gaps in the identification and management of risk arising from coal seam gas exploration, assessment and production, particularly as they relate to human health, the environment and water catchments".

My comments would refer to all forms of unconventional gas but unfortunately this review is restricted to CSG. This limitation severely effects the possibility of meaningful outcomes and leaves the review open to later accusations of irrelevance.

The most glaring gaps are:

1. The failure to establish baseline testing of water (above and below-ground), human and animal health, air quality and, most importantly, fugitive emissions.
2. The failure to establish on-going monitoring to ensure that the baseline data is utilised effectively.
3. The failure to specify which areas must not be subject to any CSG development, eg farmland (including small acreages), critical water resources and important bushland water.

Our state water resources are absolutely paramount and the development of CSG, which is largely for export, must not be allowed to compromise them in any way. Any failure to do this would be irresponsible in the extreme.

Fugitive emissions of methane could well make this industry dirtier than coal. The continued use of both coal and gas produces unacceptable risks to the planet as whole and to NSW in particular, and should not be countenanced.

Yours,

Nan Nicholson

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