

**Submission**

bruce who to: csg.review@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au

26/04/2013 04:59 PM

History:

This message has been replied to and forwarded.

To The Chief Scientist,

I wish to make a submission regarding the health and environmental impacts of Coal Seam Gas Extraction and Exploration.

Firstly , I wish to inform that I make this submission as an educated layman , with some five years experience in the gas and coal industry , interacting on a regular basis with Yancoal (formerly Gloucester Coal) , Lucas Molopo, AGL, The EPA , DTII, and Local Shire Councils.

It is of major concern that the effects of Coal Seam Gas Extraction and Exploration can result in irreversible environmental damage, from a number of aspects.

1. Damage to Aquifers, Damage is most probably irreversible.

To quote the Hon. Scott McDonald MLC who sat on committee for CSG recently "How do you make good on a well that could be hundreds of meters deep , where there is, really there's probably no prospect of, ah, of repair ah, if, if there's some sort um, break down there, so again I can only say if, if the government thought that was any risk of that , then they ah it'd be I think unlikely they'd be (given) permission to ah, to drill , ah because ah ah making good is, is, hundreds of meters deep is, is, is probably fantasy land stuff" Interview on community radio in Gloucester , recorded at the AGL Gas Project site entry, during the inquiry.

2. Health risk

The health risk to humans and animals is being questioned in many areas where gas extraction exploration and fracking are presently in existence , with headaches, nosebleeds, ear bleeds and skin rashes noted. The effects of contamination with other hydrocarbons and volatile compounds associated with the industry have not been fully explored and ascertained, nor has the concerns of associated radioactive element been suitably looked at.

The psychological effects of persons living in areas subject to actual or possible exploration and production are noted.

It is of worth to note that these people have been publicly termed "extremists" for putting their concerns for their fellow community and families forward .

3. Fugitive methane

Fugitive methane CH<sub>4</sub> is of major concern both as a safety issue as well as being a greenhouse gas of marked effect, many times that of CO<sub>2</sub>.  
Evidence of fugitive methane has been found in gas exploration areas .  
Fracking in inappropriate places will result in unacceptable damage to the environment and geology, with it's effect lasting well past the foreseeable future .

#### 4. Damage to Surface water and land

Contamination from exploration activities already evident in NSW and Queensland .

Rivers with methane bubbling at an alarming rate , well and bore blowouts during exploration

#### 5. Self Regulation

The public are wary and uncertain re the validity of information and does not feel that the industry will self regulate

Note AGL recently fine for four years of non compliance at Sydney Gas Project

I wish to make further input into this as I have only recently recieved info re submission

Your Sincerely  
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Wards River NSW