



submission into CSG Mining in Gloucester Region .  
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History:

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to the Chief Scientist

My family and I have lived in Gloucester for 4 years and moved here for the beauty of the area and the wonderful people who live here. Since we moved here there have emerged threats to our way of life and our health. Our home is within the 2 klm zone mentioned by the NSW Government as a free from mining zone. We have a dam on our property which is alive with flora and fauna, bird live and is a breeding ground for lots of species. The threats from CSG mining to us and our environment is substantial if the reports on TV and through the various independent reports are true. The mining companies have waved off these concerns with a casual nature and continue the "mining is safe" attitude which they base on their own statistics and basic measurements of the damage to water, both surface and underground, and the land damage caused by their over use of local road network. Most importantly it is the possible damage to peoples health and local farming and tourist industry that is a major concern. The network of roads they wish to link their mine heads will criss cross the area and cause irreparable damage to land, pollute dams with dust and residue. The process of " fracking" is also a most worrying thing. It appears "Monty Pythonist" to say we will dig a very deep hole, and force poisons and noxious chemicals into the hole, close to the underground water system that is the catchment for the Manning District Water Authority. Recent studies by an independent geologist suggests that the sub structure of the Gloucester Valley is particularly at risk to fracking. It is vitally important that in depth, independent reports into the whole valley and the dangers it faces, are concluded before any further mining or drilling takes place. The recent ABC Television report containing evidence from a Government employee who highlighted the CSG Companies manipulation of information, its disregard for the most important of investigations, suggests to me that in the search for profits the companies cannot be trusted and only government has the ability to protect the people it serves.

The Companies use the point of the benefits to the area that CSG mining will bring but again this is baseless rhetoric. The concreters may make some money laying the slabs for drill heads but there is no gas proposed for Gloucester, it is all to be piped to the south through a pipeline which they will force through existing farmland and homes. There will be no apprenticeships for young locals and the last time I checked there were no qualified mining engineers in the region who were unemployed. The miners have requested permission to build an accommodation complex for workers meaning even the local motels and rental properties will do no extra business. The local roads will be overused by the heavy machinery going to and from the drill sites and the building of their road connecting network will resemble the canals of Mars on our valley.

Gloucester residents are being asked to take all the risks and suffer all the possible side effects of this plan without the plan being independently examined from all angles. Please express to the NSW Government that the people of the area are feeling that we seem not to count in their grab for the corporate monies they expect to get.

yours sincerely

Steve Howlett