It is a truth not yet universally acknowledged (by government) that a government in need of more and more income will procure it by means of “whatever it takes”.

“Turning a blind eye” has a strong governmental history, back to Horatio Nelson in the Battle of Copenhagen 1801.

Horatio was blind in one eye, and when he didn’t particularly agree with the flag signal from a superior officer on the lead ship, in the battle,

he apparently lifted up his telescope to read the flags, carefully placing his scope up to his blinded eye and stated, I see no order!

There blows the terms of reference for the review of proposed coal seam gas activities in NSW.

When human health and the environment is the focus for a review into a proposed coal seam gas industry in NSW,

what first must be ascertained is

1) Are the Terms of Reference referring to the people who may work in the proposed industry or the people who are proposed to live within a gasfield 24 hours a day ie the farmers of NSW.
2) Or BOTH. If BOTH, where in the terms of Reference is it stated that the Chief Scientist will be informed by the views of the farmers who by law, may be required to relinquish their right to farm unhindered from within a proposed coal seam gas field on their free hold land.
3) The coal seam gas industry is virtually at a standstill in NSW as regard exploration and production. How will the chief scientist identify best practise in reality. Will it be by examining the QLD coal seam gas industry? There can be no inference taken from an industry in another state as to how it will be carried out in NSW. This anomaly is important in the law.
4) How can the Chief Scientist and others observe and compare the characteristics scientifically and realistically, of the said NSW coal seam gas industry, with the interstate and international industry when there is at present no coal seam gas industry operating in NSW to any degree that could render scientific results.
5) There can be NIL honest scientific conclusions of impact from an industry that at this time is not operating in any scientific form in NSW at present.
6) The Chief Scientist must legally recognize that a Review of coal seam gas activities in NSW cannot be conducted scientifically if there is not a substantial industry in operation.
7) Therefore the Chief Scientist must also concede that the Community has spoken, in their opposition and declaration that the proposed coal seam gas industry in NSW does not have a social license to proceed.
8) If the will of the people to not have a coal seam gas industry in this State of NSW, is not included in the Terms of reference as a impact, the government is procuring the services of the chief government scientist on a false scientific basis.
9) I say, by the law of NSW, the undertaking proposed in the Terms of Reference of a review of coal seam gas in NSW cannot be a true scientific assessment without a operating industry.

Victoria Hamilton
ERROLDOON
WEE WAA
NSW 2388 Ph. 0267961731