



Submission
Garry Owers to: csg.review

25/04/2013 11:33 PM

History: This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Hi,
Attached is a submission for the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer Review
of Coal Seam Gas activities.

Thanks, Garry Owers

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Submission CSG 25-04-13.doc

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25th April 2013

NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer Review of Coal Seam Gas activities
csg.review@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au

Submission – review of CSG activities

Broadening of the Terms of Reference

The Chief Scientist review should also be tasked with: -

1. Determining if there is a need for coal seam gas
2. Commissioning rigorous independent scientific research to properly assess the risks of coal seam gas mining.
3. Identifying best practice methods for baseline monitoring of health impacts, water resources, air quality, soil quality, and fugitive emissions.
4. Identifying areas of NSW that should be off limits to coal seam gas, due to unacceptable risks and impacts.
5. Reviewing the impacts of coal seam gas on agriculture and other affected industries such as tourism, manufacturing and the environment.
6. Reviewing safer alternatives such as solar PV, solar thermal, wind, tidal, wave and methane gas collected from garbage, piggeries and sewerage.

Existing terms of Reference

Terms of Reference 1 – Coal seam gas has been causing community concern within the Richmond catchment since 2005 when I was asked to assist community members at Ellangowan when Metgasco moved in and began drilling wells, a simple Google search revealed that the impacts and dangers of proceeding with CSG were not worth the risks. Risks include saline producer water, subsidence causing damage to buildings and altered drainage and flooding, water pollution, air pollution, loss of land value and community division. The government should have been aware of these risks and therefore appears negligent in approving CSG licences.

Terms of Reference 2 – The need for baseline data for fugitive emissions of methane and on-going monitoring on health, water, air quality and fugitive emissions is

fundamental. There must be proper identification of risks and an independent cost benefit analysis conducted.

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

Terms of Reference 5 – The Chief Scientist is welcome to visit our area to investigate examples of compliance failure with CSG such as methane emissions, illegal disposal of producer water, safety fences around well sites falling down and measures the community have had to take to protect our area after the failure of politicians.

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 political spin or an aquifer interference policy that rates a CGS holding (evaporation) pond the same as a domestic septic system.

Yours sincerely

G Owers