



**review of coal seam gas activities in NSW**

**Mark Westcott** to: [csg.review@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au](mailto:csg.review@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au)

22/04/2013 02:41 PM

**Please respond to Mark Westcott**

History:

This message has been replied to and forwarded.

I am concerned about the risks to our underground water. We have been relying on this water without fully understanding how it all interconnects and what factors can put it at risk. Large scale and intensive intrusion into the different bands of underground water threatens the livelihood of anyone depending on underground water.

Surface water and agricultural usefulness of land can be threatened by careless handling of large amounts of salt gathered by coal seam gas activities, and I would like to see adequate protection of the surface water and land in this regard.

I am also concerned that there is a lack of scientific data relating to:

- fugitive emissions,
- impacts on human health,
- impacts on water catchments, and
- impacts on the environment.

Existing coal seam gas projects provide some opportunities to gather useful data and this should be considered.

New coal seam gas projects provide even better opportunities to gather useful data, but only if appropriate baseline data is gathered before the project starts.

This data gathering and assessment should be done by a trusted and competent research team, otherwise the reputation of the industry and its regulating bodies will be tainted.

Too much reliance on industry sources of information is likely to compromise public faith in the ability of the State to protect the citizens and their environment.

Monitoring of operations and enforcing compliance must be adequately resourced to be useful. This is quantifiable, and so should be able to be addressed in a scientific report on coal seam gas activities.

regards,

Mark Westcott

3/16 Chicago Av, Maroubra NSW 2035

0400-285-974

02-8096-7648