



CSG Review
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Hi,

please include this in the submission,

thanks,



J_O Chief Scientist Submission.pdf

26th April, 2013

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NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer Review of Coal Seam Gas

CSG and unconventional gas exploration has taken off in Australia like a rocket. Unfortunately there are no comprehensive balances and checks in place (the ones that are there are totally inadequate) to make sure that we do no harm to our health, aquifers, food bowls, environment and tourism. These corrections need to take place immediately as I fear there is already a lot of damage being done.

1. Broaden the Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the review should be broadened so that the Chief Scientist is tasked with:

- Commissioning rigorous independent scientific research to properly assess the risks of coal seam gas mining.
- Identifying best practice methods for baseline monitoring of health impacts, water resources, air quality, soil quality, and fugitive emissions.
- Identifying areas of NSW that should be off limits to coal seam gas, due to unacceptable risks and impacts.
- Reviewing the impacts of coal seam gas on agriculture and other affected industries such as tourism and manufacturing.

2. Address existing Terms of Reference

We are starting to see the impacts of unbridled CSG expansion on the health of communities who have to live nearby these gasfields. There are way too many unknown factors on how CSG effects the health of people and live stock.

There are many gaps in managing coal seam gas risks in NSW, including the lack of baseline data and on-going monitoring on health, water, air quality and fugitive emissions. The most fundamental risk management strategy must be the creation of strict no-go zones for farmland, water resources and important bushland.

Best practice in CSG management should include a minimum 5km exclusion from residential zones, a minimum 2km exclusion from all residential dwellings, mandatory health impact assessments, and the right for communities and individual landholders to say no.

Independent scientific research is needed to assess the risks from coal seam gas operations and comprehensive baseline monitoring.

Johanna Evans & Sean Mackie