

Anne Hodgson

4<sup>th</sup> April, 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir / Madam,

I live in the Hunter Valley – one of New South Wales premier agricultural areas. I am sending this letter regarding CSG and expansion of coal mining.

I believe there is clear scientific evidence revealing Coal Seam Gas mining to be unsafe. Large coal mining developments also clearly have negative impacts on agricultural land as well as water security.

I support the proposed amendment bill:- Protecting water resources from coal seam gas and large coal developments: Senate Inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill 2013 [Provisions]

The proposed amendment is a good step. However much greater protection really is required. There are numerous projects already through the approval stage such as the ones planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near Gloucester. These developments will directly impact prime agricultural land, critical biodiversity areas and old growth forests. These are impacts that NSW cannot afford.

Additionally, there have been no comprehensive investigations regarding the health impacts of CSG mining. In the Hunter Valley it has recently been revealed how damaging coal dust continues to impact residents of the valley – this is after decades of mining. Will we now repeat this behaviour by approving Coal Seam Gas mines without firstly completing thorough studies on the health impacts of this type of mining? I hope not!

Another point which cannot be ignored is the impact on water from CSG and traditional coal mining. Australia is the driest continent on the planet. We should not jeopardise our water catchments and aquifers by allowing further expansion of coal mining and the approval for the extraction of CSG. The risk is too great!

Communities across the country are gravely concerned with the speed of approvals regarding coal mining and the rapid expansion of planned expansion of CSG. At a time where renewable energy is becoming comparable to fossil fuels, and when scientists have categorical proof that climate change is having definite negative impacts on our planet, we cannot continue to allow expansion of coal and CSG mining.

Yours faithfully

ANNE HODGSON