



Max Mudford
PO Box 26
GILGANDRA NSW 2827

Tel: 0427 485 015
maxmudford@gmail.com

12th May, 2017

Publishing of details permitted

Attn: Executive Director, Resource Assessments
Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Sir/Madam,

This is a submission to the Narrabri Gas E.I.S.

The coal seam gas industry has proven to the world that while exploring and retrieving coal seam gas from beneath the surface of the ground, it can -

- contaminate underground water aquifers with heavy metals;
- lower water tables;
- produce enough gas in the river system that can enable fires to burn on flowing rivers; and
- turn the kitchen tap into a fiery flow inside the houses of residents living within the vicinity of gas wells.

There is enough proof of damage to the environment within the industry for the mining companies and our governments to be fully aware of their actions - and concerned about it.

When damage is done to aquifers and surface soil, the government appears to hide behind it's own red tape. Where will companies like Santos and its Directors hide? What protection will the Australian Government give to the Directors of mining companies, such as Santos, when damage is done to aquifers and contamination raises significant health issues?

The Government is morally obliged to take responsibility for approving activities that potentially have dire consequences to the health and safety of Australian communities.

As agricultural food producers supplying food from Australia to people around the world, we are afraid of the damage that coal seam gas mining can do to agricultural production.

We have surveyed our entire shire and found that over 98% of all those interviewed say "No" to CSG mining in the Gilgandra Shire. We have asked our local member to take our voice to the NSW Parliament. He says that he will not speak for our concerns in parliament because "it is not National Party policy".

The NSW Government appears to be prepared, at any cost, to develop the CSG industry in NSW.

What will be the cost to the community, to livestock and to the ecosystem as a result of Santos' proposed mining operation at Narrabri? Is Santos prepared to poison the water system? Is it prepared to risk the health of children, the elderly and others with gas releases that are known to cause bleeding noses and skin sores? There is existing evidence of these conditions being prevalent in areas where CSG has gone ahead. The same condition appears in sheep in coal seam gas mining areas. It is a FACT that there is a direct relationship between sores appearing on humans and sheep in areas where CSG mines have been developed. Why is Santos excused from taking legal and moral responsibility for this outcome? Why does the Government allow them to?

We have been informed that beef exporters will not source cattle from CSG mined areas for fear of contaminated meat showing up in stringent health checks at point-of-sale to overseas buyers. Is beef from suspect areas fed into the local market? Who does our government protect the most? Is it the people of Australia or the rest of the world?

Is the Government prepared to overlook the effect Santos' operations have on the environment, the beef cattle industry and local community – through their contamination of surface water and soil? There is evidence to show that if you mine land for CSG you will contaminate the land and associated produce. In a sophisticated, developed country, please explain HOW THIS CAN BE ALLOWED?

Governments around the world, have at times, failed to protect their own people. Here in Australia, in my opinion, State and Federal governments ignore and hide the evidence of the destructive effects that coal seam gas mining has on the lives of those in the agricultural industry and the lives of those in surrounding communities.

Sadly, the only possible explanation appears to be that government is prioritizing financial gain ahead of the health and safety of the people of this country.

Our governments appear to be fulfilling the dreams and ambitions of their predecessors. Why doesn't the Government develop renewables like the rest of the world? What holds them back? Is monetary value more important than the health of our nation? Why can't we see some responsible leadership on this issue?

I urge the government to reject this project because we have an elected government, not a dictatorship, and therefore it has a duty to listen to the people it represents.

Over 98% of households in the Gilgandra Shire say "NO to CSG Mining".

I would hope as a fellow Australian and as consumer of home-grown food and water, that you can understand and see reason to be concerned.

On behalf of my industry and my community, I respectfully request that you will address and respond in detail to the concerns raised in this letter.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Mudford', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Max Mudford.