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Submission to the Planning Assessment Commission - Stage 3 of the Camden Gas project

Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) is the peak body for leaders of Religious Institutes and Societies of Apostolic Life resident in Australia. Our membership comprises more than 180 congregations of over 8,000 Sisters, Brothers and Religious Priests living and working in all states and territories, as well as many people working in organisations run by religious institutes.

CRA wishes to lodge its concern at AGL's project application 09_0048 to mine for coal seam gas (CSG) in Campbelltown and Camden.

There may be immediate financial gains for Government, but the possibility of immeasurable costs in health, lives and sustaining our environment make the project dangerous and irresponsible.

While research may suggest that liquefied natural gas is a more efficient fuel per weight than coal, there is no research that shows this is the case with coal seam gas.

In fact, research at a CSG field in southeast Queensland uncovered methane, carbon dioxide and other gases leaking up from the ground. Dr Isaac Santos and Dr Damien Maher from Southern Cross University's Centre for Coastal Biogeochemistry Research in the School of Environment, Science and Engineering presented their findings recently.

AGL will only ever produce about 5% of NSW's gas from the Camden Gas Project according to evidence it gave under oath at the NSW Upper House Inquiry. This does not justify the risks and potential costs to the community. It is socially, environmentally and economically unjustified.

Suzette Clark rsc
CRA Justice Coordinator