

Methane Gas Projects Will Risk Town and Land Water Supplies

Methane gas exploration and extraction has caused irreparable environmental, social and economic damage across the world. The same will happen to us if we don't stop it now. A project operated by Sydney Gas was stopped by 'people power' in the Yarramalong and Dooralong Valleys because of scientific concerns coal seam gas (CSG) extraction would ruin drinking water and agricultural supplies for the Central Coast.

Gas mining on the Liverpool Plains will be no different. It is not a 'clean, green' alternative to coal mining. CSG turns clean water into toxic water, land into deserts and leaves broken communities to pick up the costs. It's not a *sustainable* industry.

Gas mining will affect us all, and the Murray Darling Basin's water :-

- **by contaminating town water supplies, aquifers and stock bores**

Methane gas, drilling fluids and the highly-toxic saline water resulting from coal-seam beds have been shown to migrate throughout aquifers and poison water supplies.

- **by extracting water with the gas, lowering water tables**

Gas mining creates voids underground causing water to migrate. This results in subsidence and the cracking and draining of rivers, waterways and aquifers during and long after the gas extraction has finished. Who will pay for such destruction? We will!!

- **by creating vast quantities of waste water on the surface**

For every unit of methane gas produced, 13.5 times that amount of contaminated water has to be disposed of. Coal seam water, highly saline and unfit for use, is left to evaporate in huge ponds. The remaining salty, toxic residue is windblown onto the surrounding area rusting equipment, turning productive land barren.

- **by exploring along the stressed Hunter-Mooki fault system**

This system has been shown to be unstable eg. the Newcastle Earthquake. Many subsequent quakes have been linked to mining and drilling in the area.

- **by wrecking land values (↓ over 20%) and communities**

Communities are also affected by noise; high levels of heavy-machinery and associated industrial activity; gas leaks, methane and salt scalds and well explosions. Do we want to be like the Hunter towns – polluted, divided, contaminated and sick?

Don't let this opportunistic, poorly-regulated industry threaten our water, our food-producing ability, our environment, our communities and our next generation's future.

SAY NO TO COAL SEAM GAS EXTRACTION

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WHAT IF A MINING COMPANY COMES KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR?

1. The holder of an Exploration Licence **MUST** have an access arrangement with the property owner in order to gain access.
2. The mining company **MUST** begin by serving the landholder **WRITTEN** notice of the mining company's intention.
3. This **MUST** be delivered personally to the landowner (not over the phone) and be addressed correctly.
4. This notice **MUST** contain:-
 - i) A detailed plan and description of the area of land to which access is sought, (including the number and location of boreholes), and
 - ii) A **full** description of the prospecting methods to be used.
5. Make sure **ALL** details are **accurate**.
6. **The landholder is under absolutely no obligation at all to sign anything.** This is merely the first contact and a starting point for negotiations.
7. We recommend that landholders engage a solicitor or experienced negotiator to assist them (or meet in small groups or with neighbours) and for meetings to take place at a neutral location that is not at the landowner's property.
8. **Insist on everything in writing** and keep accurate diary notes of every contact made to/from the mining company plus retain all letters to and from the mining company.
9. If the landholder desires, the mining company can be directed to contact them only through their solicitor or legal advisor.
10. For further information and assistance on what the exploration access agreement should include; conditions that must be observed during prospecting; and for the NSW Farmers Association series of documents regarding mining exploration access please visit www.ccag.org.au and click on the Coal Seam Gas tab.



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