

Submission on State Environment Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Coal Seam Gas) 2013

Please accept my submission on the above. My position has not changed on the subject of CSG mining and as per my previous submissions, I am totally opposed to this invasive industry turning rural areas into industrial gas fields with the subsequent negative impacts on the environment, the health & social well being of the local community and the sustainability of other industries in the area.

1. The CSG exclusion zones should apply to all residential land, including land zoned RU5 Large Lot Residential. In other words, CSG mining should not occur within any person's residence, whether it be urban or rural.
2. Local Councils should not be given the choice to have an area opt out of the 2km exclusion zone.
3. Mining companies that own land should not be given the choice of opting out of the 2km exclusion zone.
4. While I applaud the two critical industry clusters of viticulture and equine having an exclusion zone, I firmly believe all agriculture & horticulture producing land should have an exclusion zone and that should include the 2km radius. Otherwise it is a discriminatory policy. No one agriculture or horticulture industry should be given preference over another, all are important – beef & dairy cattle, coffee beans, citrus fruits, macadamia, avocado, fruit and vegetables, sugar cane, aquaculture, grains and all of our other wonderful foods.
5. The 2km exclusion zone is particularly important in relation to those involved in the organic farming industry due to the many compliance regulations imposed on the farmer to maintain their organic farming certification. Leaking methane, drilling chemicals, produced water, CSG workers, infrastructure and traffic on an organic farming area will not work.
6. All surface and groundwater areas should be included in the 2km exclusion zone,
7. It should apply to existing CSG projects, CSG projects that have been approved but not yet commenced and existing coal projects, additions to existing coal projects and coal projects that have been approved but not yet commenced.
8. The Gateway process should be given the power to reject a proposal if appropriate and not simply approve a project, subject to conditions.

Finally, as reported in social media and the Sydney Morning Herald on the 2/11/13, the Prime Minister Tony Abbott told Debbi Orr from Tara in QLD that CSG mining should not occur near a person's residence and a farmer should be allowed to “No” to CSG mining on their land