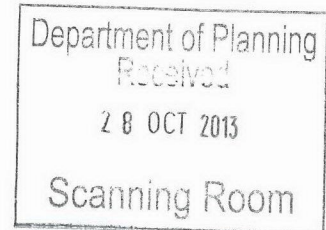


PCU048976

Dharshan Gunasekara
9/11-13 Birmingham St
Merrylands 2160
25.10.13

The Director
Assessment Policy
Systems and Stakeholder Engagement
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2000



Dear Sir/Madam,

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on the proposal in the Telegraph which was dated 12/10/13.

I cannot understand why the prospect of coal seam gas is being entertained as a valuable and viable practice. After viewing a few documentaries, my understanding is that this practice damages not only the land, but also poisons the water table and changes the hydraulic structure of the land itself.

From my point of view, it would be tragic to see the demise of the beautiful, thriving businesses and communities declining due to coal seam gas operations. This represents a win-lose situation, which would negatively impact on the existing communities. As such, my belief is that, if there is a need for the protection of land from any activity; should coal seam gas be considered at all?

This region, no doubt faces various challenges unknown to myself, although a challenge it does not need is coal seam gas development poisoning its natural resources through the process of fracking.

Fracking is a process used to release gases that are trapped, using a cocktail of water and chemicals pumped under pressure deep underground into relevant locations where there is gas. Due to the potential threat of poisoning the water, this practice is banned in France.

The Hunter region as a whole needs to be honoured and not be exposed to the above risk. The ramifications are too numerous and far reaching to be entertained at all.

This practice needs to be banned not only in this region, but in this precious land we call home. This being not only for our sake, but for our childrens' sake.

Yours faithfully,

Dharshan Gunasekara