

COAL SEAM GAS MINING – SAVE THE ILLAWARRA – SAVE OUR WATER – 15 SITES  
APPROVED HELENSBURGH TO COLEDALE

PETITION

To: the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the legislative assembly of New South Wales

The petition of citizens of New South Wales draws to the attention of the House that Coal Seam Gas Mining (CSG)

- **Always involves contaminated water, as extraction of gas draws water out of the coal seam that is highly saline and can contain toxic radioactive compounds, endocrine disruptors and heavy metals;**
- When using hydraulic fracturing (fracking), pollutes large quantities of fresh water with sand and chemicals that are pumped underground;
- Is proven to lower the fresh water table, yet exploration licenses have been issued in vital NSW water catchment areas;
- Involves leaky wells, processing plants and pipelines that are a fire hazard and cause air pollution;
- Risks a range of direct and indirect health impacts such as heart, lung, kidney & neurological problems & cancer &;
- Produces greenhouse gas emissions – particularly from large scale methane leakage – such that CSG mining has a global warming impact that is as bad if not worse than coal, over a twenty year period.

We also noted that, while the NSW Liberal Government has promised to ban the use of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes (BTEX) for the drilling process, this cannot eliminate BTEX from CSG mining. BTEX can occur naturally in coal seams and extraction water from such seams releases these hazardous compounds.

Your petitioners therefore request the House to;

- Call a Royal Commission into all impacts of CSG mining;
- Implement a moratorium on CSG mining until the outcome of the Royal Commission; &
- Ban the extraction technique known as hydraulic fracturing.