

NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer Review of Coal Seam Gas Activities

Denise Chesney to: csg.review

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History:

This message has been replied to and forwarded.

We seek the following inclusions to be considered in your review-

1. Broaden the Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the review should be broadened so that the Chief Scientist is tasked with:

- Commissioning rigorous independent scientific research to properly assess the risks of coal seam gas mining.
- Identify best practice methods for baseline monitoring of health impacts, water resources, air quality, soil quality, and fugitive emissions.
- Identifying areas of NSW that should be off limits to coal seam gas, due to unacceptable risks and impacts.
- Reviewing the impacts of coal seam gas on agriculture and other affected industries such as tourism and manufacturing.

2. Address existing terms of Reference

You can read the Terms of Reference as set by the NSW Government here. These are some points you might like to address in your submission based on these Terms of Reference:

Terms of Reference 1 – provide information to the Chief Scientist on your experiences with coal seam gas compliance failures in your local area.

Terms of Reference 2 – refer to the many gaps in managing coal seam gas risks in NSW, including the lack of baseline data and on-going monitoring on health, water, air quality and fugitive emissions. The most fundamental risk management strategy must be the creation of strict no-go zones for farmland, existing industries, water resources and important natural areas.

Terms of Reference 3 – refer to the fact that best practice in CSG management should include a minimum 5km exclusion from residential zones, a minimum 2km exclusion from all residential dwellings, mandatory health impact assessments, and the right for communities to say no. Terms of Reference 5 – invite the Chief Scientist to your area to investigate examples of compliance failure with CSG.

Terms of Reference 6 – note that what is needed is independent scientific research to assess the risks from coal seam gas operations and comprehensive baseline monitoring, not more information sheets.

Your sincerely

V & DS Chesney

Chelmsford Road Rock Valley NSW 2480