

Ten Proven Reasons for You to Say No to CSG

1. **You may be exposed to legal, financial and insurance risks.** If a landholder invites a CSG company onto their property for the purposes of exploration /production, they need to be aware of the legal implications of this action. They have willingly joined the chain of responsibility, and may be deemed liable for damage to neighbouring aquifers and pollution as a result of the CSG extraction process. Would your public liability, workcover and other insurances remain valid?
2. **You, your family and your staff - and even your livestock - may be subjected to fumes and dust that could affect your health.** Typical releases from gas wells include BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene and xylene), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and poly-aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). All these substances affect the respiratory system. 25% are carcinogenic; 37% affect the endocrine system; 52% affect the nervous system and 40% affect the immune system. **They can and do contaminate air, surface water and underground water systems.** Heavy metals and other toxic compounds are also naturally present in coal seams and may be brought to the surface in waste water.
3. **You may lose control of your business.** Banks are already refusing business loans to owners of properties near gas fields. In Queensland, compensation is considered 'off-farm income.'
4. **Your property value may fall.** Very few buyers are interested in property in, or close to, a gas field. Initial compensation agreements may seem fair and reasonable but may be changed without your knowledge or consent and with no discussion about increased payments. Any agreement you sign could bind all future owners of the property.
5. **You may be subjected to unreasonable noise, dust and pollution from hundreds of vehicle movements and heavy machinery operating around the clock, 7 days a week.** Gas wells can be drilled 200m from a residential dwelling. These sites may be flood-lit at night. Many people find this makes it difficult or impossible to sleep. Together with the lack of respect for you, your family and your business, and the loss of privacy this can lead to a number of stress-related health conditions.

6. **You may lose control of your day-to-day property management.** Some of your land will be taken out of production. Each gas well requires a 1 hectare pad plus an all-weather access road and pipes. You may also have a compressor, saline water storage or evaporation pond and other infrastructure on your farm with little or no say on exactly where they are placed. Precision cropping and controlled traffic farming systems cannot co-exist with CSG developments. Gas wells can be as close as 200m apart.
7. **Your most important asset - your soil - could be at risk of risk of permanent damage from salt or toxic chemicals.** If saline associated water contacts your soil it will become useless for agriculture.
8. **Your water will be at risk of contamination** with toxic chemicals, regardless of whether or not you have a gas well on your property. This may be from the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing, from the chemicals naturally present in coal seams, or even the gas itself. Some of these substances accumulate in the food chain. Whether you are a grain grower or livestock producer, the quality of your product will be at risk.
9. **Your groundwater supply through your domestic, stock and irrigation bores may diminished.** Aquifers adjacent to coal seams, and shallower, alluvial groundwater connected to coal seams may be drawn down as the coal seam is depressurized to allow the gas to flow.
10. **Your property could be at increased risk from the introduction of new weeds.** OH&S issues could prevent you from undertaking weed control at the optimal time. Weed hygiene may be a condition of access but many landholders have found it is often overlooked. This will add to your production costs.

Disclaimer: Authorised by People for the Plains, PO Box 412, Narrabri NSW 2390

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