



Stop CSG Illawarra
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What's going on with CSG drilling in the Illawarra?

Apex Energy NL recently emailed Stop CSG Illawarra about our work, making the contradictory claim that "drilling has not commenced at all" and "drilling took place in early 2004". Stop CSG Illawarra responds to their email asserting that the community has a right to know and that a Royal Commission into all impacts of CSG mining is needed. Our email appears below. Spokesperson Jess Moore stated:

"CSG - or coal seam gas – test drilling in the Illawarra has started.

"Apart from some Darkes Forest land owners, whose approval on leases was required, the community was not reasonably consulted or contacted prior to activities commencing, given the nature and scale of the project.

"If CSG is safe, why have plans been kept secret?

"What we already know about CSG mining is frightening. But we want to know *all* the facts and exactly what's going on in the Illawarra.

"All CSG extraction methods involve drawing contaminated water out of the coal seam. This water is highly saline and can contain toxic and radioactive compounds and heavy metals. Some of these are impossible to remove and compounds can contaminate water systems or the surrounding environment.

"CSG mining lowers the fresh water table.

"Leaky wells, processing plants and pipelines are a fire hazard and cause air pollution. Despite industry reassurances that wells don't leak, a recent Queensland Government report found that over 50% of the wells tested in the Tara region were leaking.

"CSG mining can have a range of direct and indirect health impacts. Compounds known to be present in coal seams include endocrine disruptors, carcinogens, heavy metals and radioactive isotopes. BTEX - compounds of particular concern - are used in the drilling and fracking process, and can also occur naturally within the coal seam.

"The banning of BTEX use in the drilling process - promised by the NSW Liberal Government - cannot address the latter.

Stop CSG Illawarra is campaigning locally for: a Royal Commission into all impacts of CSG mining; a moratorium on CSG mining until the outcome of the Royal Commission; and a ban on fracking.

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