

**From:** Lolita [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 July 2015 10:15 PM  
**To:** EPC  
**Subject:** Submission Against Gas Mining

Dear Committee members,

My name is Lolita Gunning. I am a grandmother and live in [REDACTED]

I have been watching the threat of fracking being a reality to farmlands in other states and around the world, and I am in disbelief at what some big companies have been allowed to get away with for short term monetary gain. Thank goodness people are awake up to what has been happening and have been able to prove the devastating detrimental effects that coal seam mining has had on the soil, water and health of the communities in the areas that have been exposed to that.

My biggest concern is, what kind of a toxic earth are we leaving for our children and the generations to come?

When there are renewable, clean sources of energy, which could provide new opportunities for employment, why are we still using polluting sources, which are destroying our land.

#### **Health Impacts**

- local children have near universal and severe skin irritations and asthma which worsens with proximity to the gas fields. Severe and recurrent nosebleeds are common.
- Severe neurological effects: McCarron found one third of children at Tara had parasthesia (abnormal sensations and numbness) and some had "abnormal movements" (central nervous damage).
- Severe effects on the unborn: US studies have shown 100% increase in neural tube defects and 30% increase in congenital hear defects.
- Huge increase in particulates which are class one carcinogens
- Wide range of toxic chemicals which show levels 10-100x above safe levels
- Existing health reports have suffered from poor methodology such as being based on affected people volunteering information only or intermittent testing which was discontinued, and are also hampered by the confidentiality agreements

#### **Enviromental Impacts**

- release of very potent green house gases including methane, that nullify any GHG saving associated with the transition from coal to gas
- unconventional gas extraction uses masses of water, draining our scarce water resources
- aquifer contamination with toxic chemicals
- release of naturally occurring BTEX compounds and other contaminates into the atmosphere and into groundwater
- "produced water" is left in ponds that will inevitably leak or spill or sprayed on local roads
- multiple earthquakes are associated with fracking and csg globally
- toxic acid rain which strops paint off cars (Ph 4.36 McCarron)
- failure rates of gas wells increase each year

#### **Agricultural Impacts**

- contamination of water (flammable water) with toxic chemicals, leading to poisoning of livestock and contamination of our high quality agricultural industry products
- increase in groundwater and soil salinity
- depletion of groundwater
- contamination of water (flammable water) with toxic chemicals

**Community Impacts**

- immediate community impacts include division and mistrust, then falling property values as the industrial process occurs and health impacts start to bite, agriculture being impacted, followed by families being bought out under confidentiality agreements, and communities being closed or relocated.
- unconventional gas extraction has near universal local disapproval, is strongly resisted, and proceeding is against communities self determination

This government was elected by the people, for the people. I trust that you will do what is truly in the interests of the people.

Thank you and all the best in making truly wise decisions,

Lolita Gunning