

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING POINTS

Health

1. The use of BTEX by coal seam gas operators has been banned in both NSW and QLD, however the process of hydraulic fracturing can release naturally occurring BTEX so it remains a risk factor during coal seam gas operations even when regulation is in place to ban gas companies using it as an additive during drilling.
2. A 2012 study out of the United States examines links between health and gas drilling. It found that case studies “strongly implicate exposure to gas drilling operations in serious health effects on humans, companion animals, livestock, horses, and wildlife.” The report says that “rigorous scientific studies” are required to avoid the gas boom remaining an “uncontrolled health experiment”.

Water

1. A report by the Committee for Economic Development of Australia said: "In addition to concerns over contamination of aquifers from the chemicals added to fracking fluid, issues have also been raised about contamination of water supplies from fugitive gas after fracking, and seismic activity and tremors associated with the drilling and fracking process".
2. The National Water Commission has said coal seam gas development represents “a substantial risk to sustainable water management”. It said that “extracting large volumes of low-quality water will impact on connected surface and groundwater systems” and noted risk factors associated with hydraulic fracturing and reinjection of treated water into other aquifers.\
3. The water extracted during coal seam gas operations is often referred to as “produced water”. This water is generally salty and can contain toxic and radioactive compounds and heavy metals.