An Overview of the Coal Seam Gas Process

James Cooper
Presented to the University of Queensland
June 6, 2013
What Is Coal Seam Gas?

- A form of natural gas
- Unconventional gas
- Mostly methane
- Useful in several applications

Figure 1. Schematic diagram of coal seam gas extraction process.

Source: CSIRO
The red areas of the map show coal basins with proven recoverable coal seam gas. Exploration is underway in Victoria and CSG is considered to be prospective in WA.

Source: ‘Gloucester Coal Seam Gas Project’, Community Information Fact Sheet, no. 8, October 2008
Environmental Concerns

- High CO₂ emissions
- Low water quality
- Large use of water
- Disturbance of farmland
- Leakage of methane
- Health concerns
Conclusion

• Much disagreement
• Large reserves
• Should coal seam gas be allowed?