

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: "Suzanne Novak" <suzanne@avani.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 3:40 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

To whom it may concern;

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards,

Suzanne Novak



avani

Creating growth

m 0421 998 722

w www.avani.com.au

srlup - Changes to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) - CSG exclusion zones.

From: "Sara Foley" <sara_foley@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 5:33 AM
Subject: Changes to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) - CSG exclusion zones.

Good Morning,

I would like to add a submission to the draft changes to the Mining SEPP, in relation to the CSG exclusion zones.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours Sincerely,

Sara Runciman

2907 Taylors Arm rd

Taylors Arm

NSW 2447

srlup - RE: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

From: Robyn Jones <thecove@live.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 9:26 AM
Subject: RE: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

Date: Wed, 10 Apr 2013 09:21:47 +1000
 To: thecove@live.com.au
 From: Bounce@mg3-in.servicefirst.nsw.gov.au
 Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

The following message to <silup@planning.nsw.gov.au> was undeliverable.
 The reason for the problem:
 5.1.0 - Unknown address error 550-'No such recipient'

--Forwarded Message Attachment--

From: thecove@live.com.au
 To: silup@planning.nsw.gov.au
 Subject: CSG
 Date: Wed, 10 Apr 2013 08:51:40 +0930

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
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4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.
6. There is no safe place for coal seam gas, unless you want to deliberately distroy our country, and if you do I hope you live with the shame, becausen we wont let you forget what you have done

srlup - Attn: Feedback to be record on Mining SEPP

From: Nadine-Devaki Wright <devakikerin@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 9:52 PM
Subject: Attn: Feedback to be record on Mining SEPP

To whom is recording this feedback, I would like to request the following comments be noted and addressed regarding the draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement **CSG exclusion zones**.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you for noting this and taking action.

I look forward to hearing an outcome regarding this.

Regards,

Nadine-Devaki Wright

Australian Citizen and NSW Resident

srlup - Public feedback submission regarding proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

From: "Montessori 0-3" <newmon03@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 9:28 PM
Subject: Public feedback submission regarding proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

Dear Sir/Madam

I write regarding the draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement **CSG exclusion zones**.

I must agree with the Lock the Gate Alliance where the changes do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow council's to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining.

I believe more thought and action needs to be taken on the following points:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

With regards and in good faith

Cari Sheedy

From: "Leslie Brix-Nielsen" <brixnn@optusnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 9:19 am
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Attention: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

I write to you in relation to the deficiencies in the proposed Amendment.

Below please find the issues that must be addressed:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards

Leslie Brix-Nielsen - one voter very dissatisfied with the NSW Government
Unit 2 - 82 Caldwell Avenue
Tarrawanna - NSW - 2518

srlup - Submission

From: "Desley Banks" <dbanks@vnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 7:28 AM
Subject: Submission

I am alarmed about CSG and unconventional gas fields in the Northern Rivers and all of NSW.
If the CSG is to continue the SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all rural residential dwellings.

The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining in drinking water catchment areas and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

The SEPP amendments should apply to all projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Food security is more important to our people than the quick grab for cash gas industry looking for Export \$\$\$\$\$. The damage potential to our aquifers will never be able to be fixed What will our future be.

Peter Hansen (B Science) 126 Gordon Rd sth Koonorigan 2480 Ph 66899499

srlup - Draft Amendments to the Mining SEPP

From: coleen greene <colgreene@yahoo.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 10:31 PM
Subject: Draft Amendments to the Mining SEPP

The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,
Subject

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

.It is submitted that

- 1 The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a minimum 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments, aquifers and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours faithfully
Coleen Greene

3 Hansons Road
North Nowra NSW 2541
ph 44220614

srlup - No CSG

From: Brooke Dalton <bdalton@agvantagecommodities.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 12:53 PM
Subject: No CSG

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

It is completely unacceptable that the NSW Government acknowledged the risk and concern associated with Coal Seam Gas extraction yet only applied exclusion zones to *some* of its residents and two identified Critical Industry Clusters. The following amendments are not only desired but necessary if you wish to protect *all* NSW residents and the future of food production in this State.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around **all** residential dwellings.
2. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Kind regards,

Brooke Dalton

PO Box 395
Narrabri NSW 2390

Ph. 0408 268 070
Fx. 02 6792 6578



srlup - Submission

From: alice Nagy <alice.nagy@hotmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 10:22 PM
Subject: Submission

Submission on the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

I welcome the move to introduce CSG exclusion zones in NSW however i still think more restrictions are needed to protect the health and safety of residents, water resources, sensitive ecosystems and agricultural lands from CSG. I'm glad that the wealthy land owners of the stud farms and wine industry are protected but what about our water catchments? what about our food bowls? what about the rest of us and our children? What protections are in place for those of us who live rurally but aren't lucky enough to have our industries and health protected like the wine and stud farms?

I would like to see the following points included in the amended policy:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours Sincerely,
Alice Nagy

sr lup - To the Director Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: Patti Jacobs <pattidragonfly@gmail.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/8/2013 6:09 PM
Subject: To the Director Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Patricia Jacobs
 2/22 Brigantine st
 Byron Bay

NSW 2481
 PH: 0431331205
 Email: pattidragonfly@gmail.com

Director, Strategic Assessment

**Department of Planning & Infrastructure GPO Box 39 SYDNEY
 NSW 2001**

Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

To the Director,

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I am making this submission today as a concerned mother of three and grandmother of 2 girls aged 11 & 4. I work full time in the IT business, & consider myself fairly well informed about the present state of the environment. I am very active in my local community, & feel it is very important that I make this submission now.

The serious risks that Coal Seam Gas poses to our Water supply, MUST be acknowledged by our Government.

Australia is in the enviable position of having all of Coal Seam Gas mining history from overseas countries to guide us. In these countries, there is an abundance of documented evidence, of contamination to water and environment, causing major health impacts to animals, humans and wildlife. There have been many cases of illness and death reported, directly attributed to Coal Seam Gas Mining, contaminating water sources in the area.

Scientists worldwide tell us that Coal Seam Gas mining is very high risk. The cement wells that are used can never be guaranteed. It is common knowledge that a high percentage of casings leak, split or fail within the first twelve months. This poses a serious risk to our Aquifers and Water Catchments.

The following information shows previous coal seam gas environmental incidents, which relate to water contamination. It demonstrates that this industry has a history of mismanagement, caused by self-regulation.

Santos, CSG exploration drilling - Pilliga State Forest

Water Contamination

1. High levels of ammonia, methane, carbon dioxide, lithium, cyanide, bromide and boron
2. Levels of arsenic were 21 times higher in the contaminated zone than natural levels
3. Levels of lead 25 times higher in the contaminated zone than natural levels
4. Levels of Nickel 171 times higher in the contaminated zone than natural levels
5. Levels of Chlorides 191 times higher in the contaminated zone than natural levels
6. Levels of Petrochemicals 19 times higher in the contaminated zone than natural levels

A Santos report confirmed, a series of more than twenty failures including:-

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->Toxic Coal Seam Gas water, spilled at up to thirty nine well sites
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->Kangaroo deaths in water ponds
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->3. <!--[endif]-->Spillage of waste water, which led to extensive tree deaths
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->4. <!--[endif]-->High levels of salt in water discharged into creek systems that flow into the Murray Darling Basin.

AGL, CSG Production drilling - (Sugar Loaf 3) Camden, (130 wells)

Explosion at Well (17/05/11)

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->This incident released plumes of contaminated water and foam into the atmosphere in the vicinity of housing and a water catchment feeder stream
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->AGL failed to report the incident for two days until the leakage was shown on Television.

Groundwater Monitoring

- 1. AGL has acknowledged, it has conducted no groundwater monitoring since the Camden coal seam gas project commenced operations in 2002

Arrow Energy

Water Contamination

- 1. Arrow Energy confirmed that benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene was found in well water associated with its coal-seam gas operation at Moranbah, west of Mackay

Environmental Concerns relating to Water

The Contamination of drinking and irrigation water and the destruction of productive farmland are significant issues that concern the community. At risk are our agricultural lands, our drinking water catchments, and the state's biodiversity.

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association acknowledges that CSG extraction has the potential to deplete and contaminate local aquifers

THE coal seam gas industry conceded (before the start of the first public hearing in NSW, held in Narrabri, of a Senate inquiry into the effects of coal seam gas mining) that Coal Seam Gas extraction will inevitably contaminate aquifers. There is no solution to contamination of our water supply, or Aquifers.

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association told a public meeting in Sydney that good management could minimise the risks of water contamination, but never eliminate it. "Drilling will, to varying degrees, impact on adjoining aquifers," said the spokesman, Ross Dunn. "The extent of impact and whether the impact can be managed is the question."

CSG mining produces vast quantities of waste water, which represents a serious environmental risk. Each Megalitre of associated water brings up to 5-8 tonnes of salt previously stored safely underground. To date detailed plans for use or disposal of these huge quantities of salt are incomplete

If untreated CSG water comes into contact with good quality, high clay-content soils, such as those on the NSW Liverpool Plains, the soil becomes impervious to water. Plant roots cannot penetrate. The soil will become barren and useless for agriculture

If CSG water is accidentally released, for example through the failure of a dam wall or a spill, it could damage aquatic life in rivers and wetlands that depends of freshwater.

One of the most significant environmental concerns is the Coal Seam Gas exploration at Oakdale beside Warragamba Dam, the major water supply for Sydney.

The proposal for, up to 20,000 - 40,000 wells, in the Surat and Bowen Basins in the next 20 years alone. The environmental stakes are high. The Water Group expressed significant concerns about the general level of uncertainty associated with these proposals, and the inability of proponents to accurately quantify their individual and collective impacts over the life of their projects

Extraction of CSG typically involves pumping the water used in the extraction process plus any associated fracking fluid into large ponds for evaporation. These ponds may cover a large area and will subsequently need to be re-mediated and rehabilitated. The water is typically saline and should the ponds fail (e.g. leak) surrounding soil quality and vegetation could be compromised or in the worst case destroyed. If pond liners fail, it could also contribute to aquifer contamination with chemicals and saline water. If ponds are flooded, their contaminants are released to surface water. Evaporative ponds will inevitably result in the transfer of chemical pollutants into the atmosphere either in gas or particle phase.

Radioactive tracers are used with various types of propane that include resin coated sand and man-made ceramics (eg polymers, nanomaterials) which can be retained in the produced water. This Radioactive material must be disposed of to an appropriate licensed facility.

Gas companies in Australia are now developing and/or operating plants to treat the produced water™ (for instance using reverse osmosis) and to on sell it to farmers for irrigation, domestic drinking water supply or cooling of power stations. However, reverse osmosis filtration has significant limitations and may not be successful in removing all contaminants. Concentrated hazardous wastes from evaporation ponds need to be disposed of to an appropriate licensed facility. This will add significant demands on regional waste management capacity (e.g. landfills).

The National Water Quality Management Strategy (NWQMS) recommends moving away from relying solely on chemical specific guidelines coupled with water quality monitoring to an integrated approach using direct toxicity assessment (toxicity bioassays) and biological monitoring. Neither of these are required by the authorization

In Australia subsurface water is our greatest and least understood asset. This concurs with the latest planning data from the United Nations which was confirmed in a press release on the sixteenth of January 2012 by the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training. They explain that ninety

seven percent of global fresh water is under the ground and consider it a matter of national security: "Where our national security is concerned, we should spare no effort to assure it."

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â^a <!--[endif]-->

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â^a <!--[endif]-->One submission to the Senate inquiry, from the medical group, Doctors for the Environment, outlined some of the potential health risks posed by coal seam gas mining. It said some of the compounds used during drilling, or released from underground by drilling, could "produce short-term health effects and some may contribute to systemic illness and/or cancer many years later". "The public health consideration of these matters has been inadequate, leaving the population exposed to potential health hazards,"

Iâ€™m very concerned, about the environment; coal seam gas will leave behind for future generations.

The long-term economic benefits of our agricultural and "nature-based"â€™ industries are a consideration. Our sustainable industries create a basis for our future and must be protected. Not replaced by the short-term economic and unsustainable gains of the CSG industry.

The Government tells us that an "Independent Scientific Committee" has been allocated to investigate the CSG industry, but the FACT is, the majority of the committee are aligned with the mining industry, so cannot be considered impartial. In FACT the Committee has no real power, and can only make suggestions and recommendations to the Government on its findings. This does nothing to protect our Water.

Coal Seam Gas Mining is an experiment with the lives of millions of people, who's water will be severely compromised. Like Asbestos; the repercussions will impact on future generations if this is allowed to proceed.

Australia is one of the driest continents in the world, and as such our water supply is a matter of national security. It must not be sacrificed for short term monetary gains.

The COST OF COAL SEAM GAS EXTRACTION is just to GREAT and I call on the Government to BAN all CSG MINING. We

must develop renewable's for our future energy needs.

Yours sincerelyâ€”

Patricia M Jacobs

Patti Jacobs
P.O.Box 939
Byron Bay NSW 2481
Australia
0431331205
pattidragonfly@gmail.com

srlop - Submission to the Senate Enquiry on CSG mining

From: Kerrie Pimm <pimm.kerrie@bigpond.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/7/2013 9:36 PM
Subject: Submission to the Senate Enquiry on CSG mining

To the Director,

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I am making this submission today as a concerned mother of three. The serious risks that Coal Seam Gas poses to our Water supply, MUST be acknowledged by our Government.

Australia is in the enviable position of having a lot of Coal Seam Gas mining history from overseas countries to guide us. In these countries, there is an abundance of documented evidence, of contamination to water and environment, causing major health impacts to animals, humans and wildlife. There have been many cases of Illness and death reported, directly attributed to Coal Seam Gas Mining, contaminating water sources in the area.

Scientists worldwide tell us that Coal Seam Gas mining is very high risk. The cement wells that are used can never be guaranteed. It is common knowledge that a high percentage of casings leak, split or fail within the first twelve months. This poses a serious risk to our Aquifers and Water Catchments.

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Gas mining produces vast quantities of waste water, which represents a serious environmental risk. Each Megalitre of associated water brings up to 5-8 tonnes of salt previously stored safely underground. To date detailed plans for use or disposal of these huge quantities of salt are incomplete

Untreated CSG water comes into contact with good quality, high clay-content soils, such as those on the NSW Liverpool Plains, the soil becomes impervious to water. Plant roots cannot penetrate. The soil will become barren and useless for agriculture

If CSG water is accidentally released, for example through the failure of a dam wall or a spill, it could damage aquatic life in rivers and wetlands that depends on freshwater.

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Extraction of CSG typically involves pumping the water used in the extraction process plus any associated fracking fluid into large ponds for evaporation. These ponds may cover a large area and will subsequently need to be re-mediated and rehabilitated. The water is typically saline and should the ponds fail (e.g. leak) surrounding soil quality and vegetation could be compromised or in the worst case destroyed. If pond liners fail, it could also contribute to aquifer contamination with chemicals and saline water. If ponds are flooded, their contaminants are released to surface water. Evaporative ponds will inevitably result in the transfer of chemical pollutants into the atmosphere either in gas or particle phase.

Radioactive tracers are used with various types of propane that include resin coated sand and man-made ceramics (eg polymers, nanomaterials) which can be retained in the produced water. This Radioactive material must be disposed of to an appropriate licensed facility.

Some companies in Australia are now developing and/or operating plants to treat the 'produced water' (for instance using reverse osmosis) and to then sell it to farmers for irrigation, domestic drinking water supply or cooling of power stations. However, reverse osmosis filtration has significant limitations and may not be successful in removing all contaminants. Concentrated hazardous wastes from evaporation ponds need to be disposed of to an appropriate licensed facility. This will add significant demands on regional waste management capacity (e.g. landfills).

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lines coupled with water quality monitoring to an integrated approach using direct toxicity assessment (toxicity bioassays) and biological monitoring. Neither of these are required by the authorization

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I'm very concerned, about the environment; coal seam gas will leave behind for future generations.

The long-term economic benefits of our agricultural and 'nature-based' industries are a consideration. Our sustainable industries create a basis for our future and must be protected. Not replaced by the short-term economic and unsustainable gains of the CSG industry.

The Government tells us that an "Independent Scientific Committee" has been allocated to investigate the CSG industry, but the FACT is, the majority of the committee are aligned with the mining industry, so cannot be considered impartial. In FACT the Committee has no real power, and can only make suggestions and recommendations to the Government on its findings. This does nothing to protect our Water.

Coal Seam Gas Mining is an experiment with the lives of millions of people, who's water will be severely compromised. Like Asbestos; the repercussions will impact on future generations if this is allowed to proceed.

Australia is one of the driest continents in the world, and as such our water supply is a matter of national security. It must not be sacrificed for short term monetary gains.

The COST OF COAL SEAM GAS EXTRACTION is just to GREAT and I call on the Government to BAN all CSG MINING. We must develop renewable's for our future energy needs.

Yours sincerely
Kerrie Pimm.

srlup - Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

From: Rebecca Dracup <bec.dracup@gmail.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/6/2013 1:06 AM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

5th April 2013

Rebecca Dracup
 78 Gloster St
 Subiaco
 WA

Director, Strategic Assessment
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

To the Director,

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I am making this submission today as a concerned university student. The serious risks that Coal Seam Gas poses to our Water supply, MUST be acknowledged by our Government.

Australia is in the enviable position of having allot of Coal Seam Gas mining history from overseas countries to guide us. In these countries, there is an abundance of documented evidence, of contamination to water and environment, causing major health impacts to animals, humans and wildlife. There have been many cases of Illness and death reported, directly attributed to Coal Seam Gas Mining, contaminating water sources in the area.

Scientists worldwide tell us that Coal Seam Gas mining is very high risk. The cement wells that are used can never be guaranteed. It is common knowledge that a high percentage of casings leak, split or fail within the first twelve months. This poses a serious risk to our Aquifers and Water Catchments.

The following information shows previous coal seam gas environmental incidents, which relate to water contamination. It demonstrates that this industry has a history of mismanagement, caused by self-regulation.

Santos, CSG exploration drilling - Pilliga State Forest

Water Contamination

1. High levels of ammonia, methane, carbon dioxide, lithium, cyanide, bromide and boron
2. Levels of arsenic were 21 times higher in the contaminated zone than natural levels
3. Levels of lead 25 times higher in the contaminated zone than natural levels
4. Levels of Nickel 171 times higher in the contaminated zone than natural levels
5. Levels of Chlorides 191 times higher in the contaminated zone than natural levels
6. Levels of Petrochemicals 19 times higher in the contaminated zone than natural levels

A Santos report confirmed, a series of more than twenty failures including:-

1. Toxic Coal Seam Gas water, spilled at up to thirty nine well sites
2. Kangaroo deaths in water ponds
3. Spillage of waste water, which led to extensive tree deaths
4. High levels of salt in water discharged into creek systems that flow into the Murray Darling Basin.

AGL, CSG Production drilling - (Sugar Loaf 3) Camden, (130 wells)

Explosion at Well (17/05/11)

1. This incident released plumes of contaminated water and foam into the atmosphere in the vicinity of housing and a water catchment feeder stream
2. AGL failed to report the incident for two days until the leakage was shown on Television.

Groundwater Monitoring

1. AGL has acknowledged, it has conducted no groundwater monitoring since the Camden coal seam gas project commenced operations in 2002

Arrow Energy

Water Contamination

1. Arrow Energy confirmed that benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene was found in well water associated with its coal-seam gas operation at Moranbah, west of Mackay

Environmental Concerns relating to Water

- The Contamination of drinking and irrigation water and the destruction of productive farmland are significant issues that concern the community. At risk are our agricultural lands, our drinking water catchments, and the state's biodiversity.
- The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association acknowledges that CSG extraction has the potential to deplete and contaminate local aquifers
- THE coal seam gas industry conceded (before the start of the first public hearing in NSW, held in Narrabri, of a Senate inquiry into the effects of coal seam gas mining) that Coal Seam Gas extraction will inevitably contaminate aquifers. There is no solution to contamination of our water supply, or Aquifers.
- The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association told a public meeting in Sydney that good management could minimise the risks of water contamination, but never eliminate it. "Drilling will, to varying degrees, impact on adjoining aquifers," said the spokesman, Ross Dunn. "The extent of impact and whether the impact can be managed is the question."
- CSG mining produces vast quantities of waste water, which represents a serious environmental risk. Each Megalitre of associated water brings up to 5-8 tonnes of salt previously stored safely underground. To

date detailed plans for use or disposal of these huge quantities of salt are incomplete

- If untreated CSG water comes into contact with good quality, high clay-content soils, such as those on the NSW Liverpool Plains, the soil becomes impervious to water. Plant roots cannot penetrate. The soil will become barren and useless for agriculture
- If CSG water is accidentally released, for example through the failure of a dam wall or a spill, it could damage aquatic life in rivers and wetlands that depends of freshwater.
- One of the most significant environmental concerns is the Coal Seam Gas exploration at Oakdale beside Warragamba Dam, the major water supply for Sydney.
- The proposal for, up to 20,000 - 40,000 wells, in the Surat and Bowen Basins in the next 20 years alone. The environmental stakes are high. The Water Group expressed significant concerns about "the general level of uncertainty associated with these proposals, and the inability of proponents to accurately quantify their individual and collective impacts over the life of their projects
- Extraction of CSG typically involves pumping the water used in the extraction process plus any associated fracking fluid into large ponds for evaporation. These ponds may cover a large area and will subsequently need to be re-mediated and rehabilitated. The water is typically saline and should the ponds fail (e.g. leak) surrounding soil quality and vegetation could be compromised or in the worst case destroyed. If pond liners fail, it could also contribute to aquifer contamination with chemicals and saline water. If ponds are flooded, their contaminants are released to surface water. Evaporative ponds will inevitably result in the transfer of chemical pollutants into the atmosphere either in gas or particle phase.
-
- Radioactive tracers are used with various types of propane that include resin coated sand and man-made ceramics (eg polymers, nanomaterials) which can be retained in the produced water. This Radioactive material must be disposed of to an appropriate licensed facility.
-
- Gas companies in Australia are now developing and/or operating plants to treat the 'produced water' (for instance using reverse osmosis) and to on sell it to farmers for irrigation, domestic drinking water supply or cooling of power stations. However, reverse osmosis filtration has significant limitations and may not be successful in removing all contaminants. Concentrated hazardous wastes from evaporation ponds need to be disposed of to an appropriate licensed facility. This will add significant demands on regional waste management capacity (e.g. landfills).
-
- The National Water Quality Management Strategy (NWQMS) recommends moving away from relying solely on chemical specific guidelines coupled with water quality monitoring to an integrated approach using direct toxicity assessment (toxicity bioassays) and biological monitoring. Neither of these are required by the authorization
-
- In Australia subsurface water is our greatest and least understood asset. This concurs with the latest planning data from the United Nations which was confirmed in a press release on the sixteenth of January 2012 by the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training. They explain that ninety seven percent of global fresh water is under the ground and consider it a matter of national security: „Where our national security is concerned, we should spare no effort to assure it."

- One submission to the Senate inquiry, from the medical group, Doctors for the Environment, outlined some of the potential health risks posed by coal seam gas mining. It said some of the compounds used during drilling, or released from underground by drilling, could "produce short-term health effects and some may contribute to systemic illness and/or cancer many years later". "The public health consideration of these matters has been inadequate, leaving the population exposed to potential health hazards,"

I'm very concerned, about the environment; coal seam gas will leave behind for future generations. The long-term economic benefits of our agricultural and 'nature-based' industries are a consideration. Our sustainable industries create a basis for our future and must be protected. Not replaced by the short-term economic and unsustainable gains of the CSG industry.

The Government tells us that an "Independent Scientific Committee" has been allocated to investigate the CSG industry, but the FACT is, the majority of the committee are aligned with the mining industry, so cannot be considered impartial. In FACT the Committee has no real power, and can only make suggestions and recommendations to the Government on its findings. This does nothing to protect our Water.

Coal Seam Gas Mining is an experiment with the lives of millions of people, who's water will be severely compromised. Like Asbestos; the repercussions will impact on future generations if this is allowed to proceed.

Australia is one of the driest continents in the world, and as such our water supply is a matter of national security. It must not be sacrificed for short term monetary gains.

The COST OF COAL SEAM GAS EXTRACTION is just too GREAT and I call on the Government to BAN all CSG MINING. We must develop renewables for our future energy needs.

Yours sincerely,

--

Rebecca Dracup
President
EWB University of Western Australia

Engineers Without Borders Australia
T / 0403 923 680
S / rebecca.dracup
bec.dracup@gmail.com
www.ewb.org.au

Creating Change through
Humanitarian Engineering

EWB has just launched a new website - [check it out!](#)

srlup - RE: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: Malos <malos.web@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 9:41 AM
Subject: RE: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Regarding the

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

This amendment has not addressed the following points. These further issues are required for any real protection and sustainability of our land, public health and way of life.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Basically this current amendment is as weak as piss (but perhaps I'm not being too soft, not critical enough and I should replace 'piss' with 'NSW government')

paul mcgannon
faulconbridge, nsw

From: patricia white <pjw-patjohnw@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 10:09 am
Subject: submission

Please consider the following submissions for amendments.sincerely,
Patricia White

- 1 The SEPP amendments should be broadened to to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings
- 2 The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
- 3 The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
- 4 The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
- 5 The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but not yet satisfied their condition of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

srlup - Draft amendment

From: Ciska Therese Cassa <ciska.therese@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 12:48 PM
Subject: Draft amendment

Concerning the

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013,

I would like to quote and agree with the following recommendations:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Sincerely,

--

CThCassa

srlup - proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

From: "Chris & Graham Mansfield" <mansfield194@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 8:15 PM
Subject: proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

I commend the NSW Government for finally realising that CSG mining will have adverse and possibly catastrophic effects on the people of NSW and the environment in which they live and have taken measures to avoid this happening. BUT if you really have concerns for your constituents health and environment the changes to the legislation should also include the following.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation

Kind regards

Chris and Graham Mansfield
mansfield194@gmail.com
Chris 0428 440 215 / Graham 043 777 1937

srlup - submission

From: Tjoan Lie <saveforests@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 8:49 PM
Subject: submission

Kok Tjoan Lie
 18 Burunda St.,
 Como,
 2226

9 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a resident of NSW and owner of a bush block in Central Tableland, I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

I welcome your decision with a plan to amend the mining SEPP to add a buffer zone to stop the development of CSG within 2 km of residential areas and critical industry clusters.

It is a step in the right direction. However the change does not cover other potential impacts of CSG such as water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation land. One of the reason for me to buy the bush block is to preserve and creates a wildlife corridor. But CSG and coal mines threaten everything.

CSG is still in its infancy. There has been no long term study of CSG mining operations impact to the water catchment areas.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect the areas mentioned above. Prior to the election in 2009 you made a promised that mining can't occur in any water catchment area. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee.

The key points of the amendments are:

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->3. <!--[endif]-->Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->4. <!--[endif]-->Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health

impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->5. <!--[endif]-->In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->6. <!--[endif]-->Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->7. <!--[endif]-->Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->8. <!--[endif]-->The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->9. <!--[endif]-->The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->10. <!--[endif]-->The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

Thank you very much.

<!--[if !supportFootnotes]-->

<!--[endif]-->

<!--[if !supportFootnotes]-->[1]<!--[endif]--> Source: www.australiancoalalliance.com/Information/Woodbury%20Park%20Rally.mov.

srlup - Mining SEPP

From: Dale Curtis <curtis.dale@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 8:44 AM
Subject: Mining SEPP

Hello. I would like to make a few comments on the proposed State Mining SEPP.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings. That is rural residential areas need protection as well. The same applies to regional industry.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Sincerely,

Dale Curtis

Armidale

srlup - CSG Exclusion Zones

From: <sue.maloney@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 2:22 PM
Subject: CSG Exclusion Zones

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in regards to the amendments that will shortly be made to the Mining State Environmental Policy to implement CSG exclusion zones. I strongly feel that there are more exclusions necessary than just for viticulture and TB breeding studs. Rural areas are where our food comes from and must be protected. Please consider the points below when considering this topic.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards Sue Maloney

From: Kevin & Cathy Lock <kevin_cathy@iinet.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 2:37 pm
Subject: CSG Exclusions zone

Dear Sir,

In my opinion CSG mining should be banned worldwide. This planet has a only a finite amount of fresh water. Squandering the Earth's precious resources or fouling them for whatever reason on such a huge scale, is a crime against humanity.

Since however it seems politically incorrect to say NO to the mining industry and there are always folk out to make a quick buck, we have to fight to put regulation in place to safe guard a BASIC HUMAN RIGHT. Clean fresh drinking water.

CSG Exclusions zone should include:

0. ABSOLUTELY NO MINING IN CATCHMENTS, IN FACT HEFTY FINES SHOULD BE INCURRED TO ALL THOSE WHO TREAT WATER RESOURCES DISRESPECTFULLY. (From planners, to miners, politicians and even commercial bankers and fund managers). Seriously are they all out of their heads ??? What are they thinking???? water soluble cancer forming chemicals (carcinogens/fracking fluid) being injected into our life supply. GREAT!! Tons of toxic waste lurking in our pristine catchments ???? Australia is one of the driest continents on Earth. We have just come out of a nearly crippling 10 year drought..... and now we are being told that this industry is going to squander millions upon millions of litres of water to produce cheap gas??

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 5km buffer around all residential dwellings.

2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.

3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas. Areas of reserved for FORESTS and NATURE RESERVES, and iconic Australian locations should be off limits. IE NO MINING ALLOWED IN THESE AREAS or in a 10 km radius around them.

4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

6. Ban fracking in Australia.

Thank you for your consideration.

BSc Honours degree in Chemistry
15 Year analytical chemistry experience in Water Industry/Catchment monitoring.

srlup - SEPP amendments

From: catherine regan <catregan@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 3:02 PM
Subject: SEPP amendments

To whom it may concern,

I am appalled at the decisions currently being made in regards to CSG and wish to voice my complete opposition to this practice in ANY areas of Australia. However, in response to most recent developments I offer the following suggestions -

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

The decisions being made now are at the cost of our future. I am disgusted at the short sighted, profit focussed agenda which is overlording our country at the price of protection of our most valuable national assets - a clean and protected environment and uncontaminated water, air and food.

Please stop the CSG madness...the 78% of Australians opposed to these mining practices have a right to input into decisions which are determining the future of this country.

Regards,
Catherine Regan
0422 469 274

srlup - CSG

From: Robyn Jones <thecove@live.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 3:11 PM
Subject: CSG

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.
6. There is no safe place for coal seam gas, unless you want to deliberately destroy our country, and if you do I hope you live with the shame, because we won't let you forget what you have done

srlup - Draft NSW Gov. SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones.

From: "Anne Thompson" <jthompson18@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 3:22 PM
Subject: Draft NSW Gov. SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones.

Dear Sirs,

1. With regard to the Draft SEPP Amendment on CSG exclusion zones I submit that by granting the 2km exclusion zone from vineyards and horse studs, this is an admission of the risks involved! In that case what about dairy farms and the risk to the cows and the milk they produce? What about grazing properties and the risk to cattle and the meat they produce? What about cropping and grain producing land and the risk to the food chain? What about the risk to the water, above and below the ground? Water is Australia's most precious commodity, more precious than coal or gas, gold or antimony.
2. If local councils are allowed to veto this exclusion zone, they should likewise be able to add more prohibited areas as they would best decide which these areas should be.
3. The provision should not only be exclusion for 'prime agricultural land' – but any food or fibre producing land, water catchments and environmentally sensitive areas.
4. These amendments should be expanded to apply, not only to coal seam gas drilling, but to coal mining and all forms of unconventional gas extraction, including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval and have not yet commenced operation.

Mrs. Anne Thompson
P.O. Box 214,
Clunes,
2480
NSW.

From: [REDACTED]
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 3:38 pm
Subject: ATTENTION : The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, want name and address withheld

Dear Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,
I wish you to take note that I wish to see a complete halt and end to CSG mining anywhere in Australia -
It is not safe and should not be done full stop !!

Other amendments to the bill are expressed below - But I wish to make it clear NO CSG mining in Australia - our land is precious and cherished by myself and my family.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 20 km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas and aboriginal land and sacred sites
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

[REDACTED]

(want name and address withheld)

srlup - Submission to Draft Amendment to the SEPP (Mining, Petroleum Production & Extraction Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: john heaton <john-heaton@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 3:39 PM
Subject: Submission to Draft Amendment to the SEPP (Mining, Petroleum Production & Extraction Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I make the following submission to the above.

Introduction

I am totally opposed to CSG mining in NSW, especially rural NSW. The vast majority of submissions to the 2011/12 NSW Upper House General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 were opposed to this industry expanding in NSW. These submissions included those from many concerned individuals, local environment groups, local action groups, various Water Authorities, CWA, NSW Farmers Association, some Engineering & Geology Associations, Doctors for the Environment, various Local Councils, National Toxics Network and one of the major employer's on the Northern Rivers NORCO.

There is ample evidence of the negative impacts this industry has on the environment from overseas and in Queensland.

Submission

1. If the amendment calls for a 2km buffer zone, it should be broadened to include all residential areas. Before deciding on a 2km buffer zone, studies should be undertaken determine if the 2km zone is sufficient because residents around recent exploration drilling at Glenugie and Doubtful Creek reported impacts (noise, dust, road damage etc) beyond 2km. Perhaps a 5km buffer zone would be more appropriate.
2. The right to veto for Local Councils wanting some areas to be excluded should be removed. It should be replaced by the right for a Local Council to say no to CSG mining in their Local Council area.
3. Why the full protection for the equine and wine industries of the Hunter Valley? If it is good enough for those two industries to be fully protected, full protection should be given to the dairy and beef cattle industries, coffee bean production, macadamia nut, avocado, citrus fruit, vegetable production, organic farming and so on and so on. All food producing land should be fully protected as they are all important.
4. These amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. These amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Conclusion

Until such time as the general consensus amongst the scientific community says there is no impact on the local environment - including land, air, water (both surface and underground), human health and social impacts - the Precautionary Principle should apply and no CSG mining activities should operate. **Research undertaken by consultants paid by the CSG mining companies does not instill public confidence in the process.**

Indeed, recent independent studies undertaken by Professor Gavin Mudd from Monash University and Professors Santos and Maher from Southern Cross University indicates this industry is not safe.

I trust the NSW Government will listen to the majority of people that oppose CSG mining in their local area and not the small minority with vested interests in the CSG mining industry.

Regards

John Heaton
128 Platypus Drive
URALBA NSW 2477
Phone 0266287163
0448 934663

From: R & C MILES <cathiemiles@bigpond.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 12:22 pm
Subject: proposed amendments to the NSW Mining SEPP

My submission to the proposed amendments to the NSW Mining SEPP is as follows:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Cathie Miles
PO Box 3033
Uki NSW 2484
Mobile: 0427797191
Email: cathiemiles@bigpond.com

srlup - Submission to the SEPP draft on CSG

From: Joachim Karsch <jkarsch1@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 12:23 PM
Subject: Submission to the SEPP draft on CSG

DEAR SIR/MADAM

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of

the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

<!--[if !supportLists]-->10. <!--[endif]-->The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

Yours sincerely,
U & J Karsch
POBox 3089, Wamberal 2260

srlup - Draft amendment to SEPP Mining Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013)

From: Christine Stickley <christine.stickley@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 3:55 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to SEPP Mining Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

The Premier, Mr Barry O'Farrell,
 The Planning Minister Brad Hazzard,
 The Department of Planning Re SEPP (Mining) 2013,
 Parliament House,
 Sydney. NSW 2000.

12th April, 2013.

Dear Sirs,

I am writing as a resident of the Blue Mountains. There is a licence to explore for Coal Seam Gas under my property and those of many other people in the Lower Blue Mountains. Whilst I, with caution, acknowledge the intent of this amendment to limit exploration for Coal Seam Gas within 2 km of Residential Zonings, I do not believe that this will adequately protect our World Heritage Area of the Blue Mountains, nor protect our water supplies and Catchment Areas, Agricultural and pastoral lands within the state of NSW. I am despairing of the effects that have already been noticed and reported and researched by people in SW Queensland, and watch in horror at the potential effect that Coal Seam Gas mining will have on the rich productive farming land around Gloucester.

I am concerned, within my own local area, that landscapes of scenic, ecological and aboriginal significance will be outside this 2 km radius of Residential areas and not protected by the National Park or World Heritage Area boundaries. And what of land zoned for rural industry?

I am pleased that the government has imposed tougher restrictions on the Gas companies, and I am likewise pleased that companies are choosing to abandon their efforts in Australia as it will be unprofitable.

I am also concerned that drilling in the Illawarra Escarpment will be close to 3 key water catchment areas that supply water to the people of Sydney. The slopes of the Illawarra escarpment are already dangerous and unstable due to land slippage. What effect will Coal Seam Gas Drilling have on the integrity of the rock structure here? Drilling could take place outside the 2 km zone, yet cause slippage on to homes at the bottom of the escarpment, including my brother's home.

I am concerned that this drilling deep below the earth injecting water and chemicals will permanently affect our ground water and aquifers.

How can a Government allow this type of questionable mining to take place? If we ruin our ground water, and we lay unproductive our good farmland, and we rape our land to give up all it has got, what will we have left? A barren unproductive land, with a growing population that will need to rely on imports for food. And how will we pay for that? No more resources left to sell. This is not sustainable. And after the companies have ruined our water, left our farmland bare, and affected the health of our children and families, they will head off overseas, to do it again elsewhere, just to make a profit. The gas that will be mined in NSW is for export, not for sale in our local communities. The government needs to put in place policies that safeguard our land, our water, and our communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.

The government needs to place large exclusion zones around our drinking water catchments. I cannot believe that I am not allowed to walk within the Sydney Catchment Area, but a company can mine in that same catchment area. It does not make any sense.

There needs to be exclusion zones to protect our public land, including high conservation value land, land bordering National Parks, State Conservation areas and travelling stock routes.

There needs to be exclusion zones to protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.

The amendment singles out key farming industries with a 2 km exclusion zone, but this will create a fragmented effect that can still subject these farming industries to the effects of methane gas, increased traffic and transport problems, dust, and gas affecting these close to gas drilling. The policy needs to include specific air pollutant standards that are specific to CSG extraction. Air quality monitoring of all fields, associated infrastructure and compressor stations needs to be included in the legislation.

All unconventional gas extraction should be included in this SEPP amendment, not just gas derived from coal. What about tight gas being explored in the Northern Rivers Region?

The Health risks of living just outside this arbitrary 2km zone, which is very small, have not been studied. A moratorium on all drilling for Coal Seam Gas needs to be held to enable a comprehensive health Study as recommended by the SW Sydney Local Health district and other community groups in NSW. When in doubt, don't.

Better still, stop the exploration for Coal Seam Gas in NSW altogether. That would be my choice. We are mining our country to send our resources overseas for short term profit or gains. We need to explore the real viability of renewable power options. I envisage that in the not too distant future we will be able to generate our own power from other methods. This whole digging up of our fossil fuels to produce more green house gas to produce global warming is over. It is not sustainable, it will not help our country in the long run, and we are selling and destroying our country in a manner that will be wondered at incredulously.

Now, with our change of attitudes in the beginning of the 21st Century, we cannot understand the way the process of Assimilation was enforced upon our First Nation people by taking their children away from their mothers. Will we be in the same position with this mining of our ancient forests from our land? The trouble is, "SORRY" will not hack it in this case. It will be too late.

Yours faithfully,

Christine Stickley.
20 Gwen Crescent,
Warrimoo NSW 2774.

halcyon@bigpond.net.au.

P.S. The clause that allows Councils to opt out of this 2km exclusion zone should be removed. They will be vulnerable to the lobbying of powerful industries.

SUBMISSION Mining SEPP

Beth Williams
25 The Avenue
Armidale NSW 2350
Phone 02 6772 4454

12.04.2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Comments and concerns on draft amendment to mining SEPP

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

I write as a resident of Armidale particularly concerned about coal seam gas exploration and proposed production activities in the Pilliga, and open cut mining projects in Leard State Forest. The cumulative impacts of these projects threaten biodiversity, community and ecosystem health, water security and ecological sustainability. They have not been adequately assessed under the existing flawed NSW planning system, nor under the federal EPBC Act recently amended to include water as a trigger for action.

I am a member of Armidale Branch of the National Parks Association of NSW and of BirdLife Australia Northern NSW, with a lifetime of environmental advocacy.

I welcome this opportunity to comment on the proposed mining SEPP.

The 2km buffer zone prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and some rural industries from the damaging impacts of CSG, but needs to go much further to deliver appropriate protection to all residences and significant drinking water catchments, aquifers, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.

This is demanded by farmers and environmentalists throughout NSW calling on the Government to protect underground water and strategic agricultural land, the Murray Darling Basin recharge areas and iconic natural places like the Pilliga and Leard State Forest - not just the mining and gas industry's balance sheet.

Our significant food producing areas, water catchments and biodiversity strongholds should all be placed off limits to coal seam gas and open-cut coal mining.

Why are wine producers and horse studs in the Hunter Valley the only "strategic agricultural land" nominate for protection by the SEPP? Why are public lands like the Pilliga and Leard

State Forest given no protection despite being identified by SLURP mapping as biodiversity icons that cannot withstand further clearing? Exclusion zones should protect our critical farmland and public land by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations.

The much vaunted Strategic Regional Land Use Plan (SRLUP), the Gateway process and the Aquifer Interference Policy are purported to provide the strongest regulation of CSG industry in Australia, but have not been legislated or applied in any current application and approval processes. They are widely regarded as self-serving empty rhetoric.

They have been criticised by the COAG Reform Council in its *Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development: First assessment report*, which finds that “The NSW and Commonwealth Governments have not agreed on NSW’s draft protocol. It remains unclear how NSW will decide which projects to refer to the Independent Expert Scientific Committee for advice outside of land it has identified as ‘Strategic Agricultural Land’”.

The draft SEPP should take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands, including drinking water catchments, from inappropriate mining and gas developments. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas, and with public expectations regarding the management of protected areas and water catchments.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development. This was promised by Premier O’Farrell in 2009: “The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can’t occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense.” It has not happened – it’s a broken promise, despite exclusion of certain Critical Industry Clusters, identified under the Strategic Regional Land Use Plans, from CSG activities.

Given the acknowledged risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW, and also until the Expert Scientific Panel has assessed the impact on water and the project been referred to the federal Minister for the Environment for a decision under the EPBC Act.

Recent approvals such as Maules Creek Coal mining and the Gloucester CSG mining should be recalled and suspended while the Expert Scientific Panel completes an evaluation. Current exploration activities such as those by Santos in the Pilliga area should also be immediately referred to the Independent Expert Scientific Committee so that they can be assessed for their impact on water and federally threatened species, and appropriate advice given to the Federal Minister for the Environment

I strongly support the following points prepared by the Nature Conservation Council suggesting necessary alterations to improve the SEPP. Please give them full consideration.

1. The “opt out” clause of the amendment should be removed. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
2. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
3. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
4. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
5. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
6. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
7. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
8. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.

Please amend the proposed mining SEPP to take full account of the above suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

Beth Williams BSc (Hons in Botany), University of Sydney.

12th April 2013

Submission

To the Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

Re: Draft amendment to the state environmental planning policy (mining, petroleum production and extractive industries) (coal seam gas exclusion zones)

I am writing in regard to the above-mentioned Draft amendment, as whilst I feel it is a step in the right direction, there are a number of issues that it fails to address. Not only should residential areas, viticulture and horse-breeding industries be protected, but all residential dwellings, farm/rural properties, food growing areas, water catchment areas and sensitive environmental areas of all kind should be protected from all forms of coal mining and unconventional gas extraction. Additionally, what good is providing this exclusion for certain areas when local councils then have the right to veto it?

Below I have listed a number of points that need to be addressed further before the amendment becomes policy

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you,

(Name withheld), The Channon NSW

Bruce Gilbert
6 Forbesdale Close
Forbesdale NSW 2422

11 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposed Amendment to the draft SEPP in relation to CSG exclusion zones

I am a resident of Forbesdale, 7 kms south of Gloucester, and my property will overlook Stage 1 of the proposed AGL CSG development; in fact wells are proposed less than 1km from the 30 plus homes in Forbesdale. I am a member of a number of community groups including the Barrington Gloucester Stroud Preservation Alliance (BGSPA) and I strongly support the submissions that groups such as the BGSPA, Lock The Gate Alliance and the Nature Conservation Council will be submitting.

The proposed amendment includes a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas and so-called critical industry clusters. While this is a significant step in the right direction, it fails to consider country residents who live in rural areas or small villages. It also fails to take into account the need for further environmental protections that safeguard our drinking water, our health and our conservation and agricultural lands.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as clearly promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: *"The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee"*¹.

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The NSW government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

I would ask the following:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a minimum 2km buffer zone around all dwellings, wherever they may be. My locality of Forbesdale has over 30 homes and these should be treated the same as bigger towns. **No ifs, no buts, a guarantee!**
2. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects which have been approved but have not commenced. The Gloucester AGL project should not be allowed to proceed.

¹ Source: www.australiancoalalliance.com/Information/Woodbury%20Park%20Rally.mov.

3. The proposed amendment does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The NSW government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries. The threat to Forbesdale by open cut coal mining is substantial and irreversible.
4. The right of veto for local Councils should be removed unless there is an equivalent power for Councils to list new prohibited areas.
5. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive state-wide study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
6. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
7. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
8. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
9. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)
Bruce Gilbert

srlup - Submission on CSG and mining exclusion zones.

From: Max Campbell <mca79997@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 10:05 PM
Subject: Submission on CSG and mining exclusion zones.

RE:Submission on CSG and Mining exclusion zones.

1..The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 5 Km buffer around all residential dwellings.

This is required to minimise the impact of noise and toxic gasses to the residents.

2..The right of veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.

3..The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive water environmental areas.

4..The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

5..The SEPP amendment should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

When a government doesn't listen to the people, then it becomes a corrupt democracy or dictatorship.

Yours faithfully
Max Campbell
Bangalow.

srlup - CSG exclusion zones

From: "BILLYS CREEK" <treetops.119@bigpond.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 10:49 PM
Subject: CSG exclusion zones

Dear Sir,

I wish to comment on the draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP), as follows:-

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 10km buffer around all residential dwellings, schools, public places and commercial buildings not associated with Coal Seam Gas Mining.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas and coal tar gas mining.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

This dramatic push to allow permits for CSG mining has not received approval from the general population. Nearly everyone I have spoken to on this subject is in agreement that it should be at least put on hold till better assessment can be made, and at best that it should be totally rejected and solar options put forward.

The use of limited energy resources within the last century only depletes resources for future generations, and our use of the "easily obtainable" resources, does nothing for future generation's need for resources.

I respectfully request a total ban on all new and yet to be started CSG projects.

Regards,

John Dyer.

Meredith Stanton
209 Wiriri Rd
Clouds Creek
NSW 2453

12 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

I live in the upper Clarence Valley and am a member of the Clarence Environment Centre. I am a land manager and have experience in agricultural/horticultural/forestry and catchment management practices. I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

I speak for rural and regional Australia when I say "Stop new coal and coal seam gas mining now" Coal seam gas exploration in northern NSW since 2009 has had a number of detrimental impacts on water quality, vegetation, wildlife and human health. Two examples of contamination that come to mind:
Pilliga Forest (EasternStar/SANTOS) NW NSW,
Rappville near Kyogle N NSW (MetGASco).

It seems little is being done to monitor and survey the local impacts to community health, or other environmental and social effects caused by CSG exploration in NSW. There appears to have been very little government regulation or oversight of drilling activities near to residences or water resources. Minimal baseline testing has occurred and now that evidence of impacts, like methane migration is coming to light, we are seeing that monitoring procedures have been particularly poor, with local people noticing environmental changes, but failing to report contamination, due to a lack of public information about who regulates the industry.

The NSW govt tells us that the Chief Scientists office will produce some brochures about CSG by July 2013. This belated promise from the state authority after the NSW government have already approved csg production in a number of areas and the operating gas companies are now quickly exiting from the state. Metgasco (and now Dart), have rushed from the NSW northern rivers claiming no operational impacts during 5 years of exploration. The fact is there are impacts and they have not been investigated or reported.

The reason I cannot find any credible scientific research relating to coal seam gas impacts on water and public health is that there is no government information available and few published online publications. The health services are unsure how they will diagnose methane and heavy metal poisoning, with a number of health professionals seeking these amendments and more to protect community health from mining policy. Government regulators say there is no detectable gas in the air, yet independent testing reveals dangerous levels of chemicals in the air.

The community of Tara in Queensland has reportedly been suffering negative health effects from the surrounding gasfields. Families in northern NSW are also suffering similar symptoms to those in Tara after Metgasco CSG operations in 2009 near Casino have contaminated nearby ground water. The issue of air and water contamination from mining is not going away and yet our planning, regulation and exploitation of the resources without conscience of the impacts to community health and welfare suggests that business is prioritised over people.

Coal and coal seam gas mining is fast losing any social license to operate because the impacts are being experienced by many and the laws appear to be being written by the mining companies. Public health, water protection and community acceptance must be a priority for proposed exclusion zones. All prime agricultural land, residential areas and water catchments must be excluded from coal seam gas mining. There must also be strict exclusions for protecting native vegetation and areas of high value biodiversity from CSG mining.

Key points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment:

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council “opt out” clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.

4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

yours sincerely,

Meredith Stanton

srlup - Submission to draft SEPP

From: [REDACTED]
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>, <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazard.minister.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 11:59 PM
Subject: Submission to draft SEPP

12 April, 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am proud and fortunate to live with my husband and son on a grazing property on the south western corner of the Liverpool Plains. We raise livestock to feed other Australian families and also provide wool for garments. We realise we are custodians of this land and we vow to protect it from destructive, high risk, mass industrialisation by the Coal Seam Gas Industry, which has been brought on by Governments failure to ensure necessary protection through sound policies and legislation.

Following are my comments on the proposed policy, and I am furious that I have to lodge a submission to do what Government should be doing, and that is insisting protection for my family, my farm, my community and the surrounding environment.

We, like many thousands of other rural families across NSW have been call for the protection of our and other local communities from the CSG industry. The Governments response so far has been to amend the mining SEPP to set controls and a buffer zone of 2km to stop the development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and two critical industry clusters, being horse studs and vineyards.

Even though I feel that is needed, it does not cover any of the impacts on the state's key water supplies, productive agricultural land, state conservation areas, and high conservation value land, nor does it address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

It also omits large parts of the state open to CSG, as it does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including the sabotage of the Pilliga Forest and the beautiful and productive Gloucester Valley.

The NSW Health Department have not done comprehensive investigations into the health effects of CSG mining and I refuse to accept that our home and family should be subjected to less protection from this risky industry than other built up areas, by allowing CSG mining to come within 2km of our home.

To extract CSG, millions of litres of water are pumped from deep beneath the earth, threatening ancient aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water. The NSW Government said they had banned evaporation ponds, but they have allowed enormous "holding ponds" to take their place (and they don't evaporate?). The CSG industry refer to produced water as a waste product, yet farmers know how precious every drop of water is to life. CSG clearly cannot coexist with healthy agricultural environments and communities.

It is obvious to me that further amendments to the SEPP need to put in place to protect drinking water

catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009. He made a "No ifs, no buts, guarantee" to ensure that the mining can't occur in any water catchment area and said he would ensure that mining leases and exploration permits reflect that common sense. We want you to keep your word Mr. O'Farrell, at present you are failing us.

There is also a lack of account in the draft SEPP to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

I can see the "opt out" clause for local councils in Clause A, sub clauses 2 and 3 will allow gas companies to circumvent the safeguards by pressuring council to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment. You only have to live in the community to see the persuasive methods they employ to get their desired results.

My recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment are:

- Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
- Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
- Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
- In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
- Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
- Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
- The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
- There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.

I can only hope and anticipate a positive response by the NSW Government to the concerns raised about the draft SEPP, in making the necessary amendments to protect the citizens of this state.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

(Please withhold my personal details)

srlup - submission for CSG exclusion zones NSW

From: "Orders" <orders@triballine.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 8:46 AM
Subject: submission for CSG exclusion zones NSW

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this submission on behalf of Stop CSG Sydney Water Catchment. We welcome the proposed changes as an important step in protecting critical regions of NSW. It is only right to protect NSW residents from the risks CSG mining may pose for them.

However this amendment does nothing to protect the fresh drinking water of those same residents. 2% of the state provides drinking water for 60% of the residents. Within these catchments all activities are regulated by the Catchment Authority, and rightly so. Water Catchment regulations state that any activity, whether it be recreational or commercial, is only permitted if it is deemed to be either neutral or beneficial to the catchment. No one can argue that coal seam gas mining is neutral or beneficial to the catchment.

The SEPP amendments should be altered to include a 2 km buffer around ALL residential dwellings. Why should some who lives in a small rural village not be offered the same protection as large town or city dwellers?

The "opt out" right offered to councils may have been included for all the right reasons but is fraught with problems. It encourages intense lobbying of councils who increasingly are cash strapped and carries a real risk of corruption. We ask that this be removed from the amendment, an "opt in" clause could be considered.

The identification of critical regions of the state is very welcome but what is more critical then food producing regions, farmers need the security that their properties, including their water supply, are not threatened by coal seam gas mining.

Why would you exempt viticulture but not tourism.

We ask that the amendment include all forms of unconventional gas including shale and tight gas, it should also apply to all coal seam gas projects that have not yet commenced operation.

Yours Faithfully,

Merilyn Hyde

srlup - SEPP amendments to mining CSG

From: "christine willmot" <cwillmot@linknet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/13/2013 9:46 AM
Subject: SEPP amendments to mining CSG

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to submit my concerns about the amendments to CSG mining. I live in a rural coastal area that is under licence for exploration. I am concerned for our town water supply as well for the livelihood of rural producers.

Please stop the rush – most of the gas produced is being sent overseas – please keep it in the ground until and if we need it – or for future generations – remember them?

Below are the points at issue

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Christine willmot
0407857991

srlup - NSW CSG Exclusion Zones

From: Lucia Fischer <lucia.a.fischer@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/13/2013 1:18 PM
Subject: NSW CSG Exclusion Zones

I am writing regarding the NSW government's draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones. The proposed changes provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters.

However, they do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow councils to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining.

I believe that:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards,

Lucia Fischer

Otford NSW 2508

srlup - Draft NSW SEPP Amendment

From: "Jo Mac" <makingknown@broadband.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/13/2013 5:37 PM
Subject: Draft NSW SEPP Amendment

Dir. Strategic Reg Policy

Dear Sir/Ms

The following are my concerns re policy and suggestions for required change:

- SEPP amendments should be broadened to a 5 klm buffer around all residential dwellings. Less than this does not take into consideration the danger of underwater contamination reaching households.
- The right to veto should be removed from Councils. Too many of these bodies are far more interested in the potential to lubricate their finances than in protecting their ratepayers. The three closest to us are classic examples of this
- Provisions should include exclusions for *all* identified food producing (including stock-raising as well as agricultural) lands, **water catchments**, & sensitive environmental areas
- The amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining, & all forms of unconventional gas extraction, including shale gas & tight gas.
- the SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved, but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval.

Thankyou for the opportunity to express my heart-felt & logical concerns

Jo Macdonald
73 Lesley Creek Rd
Drake NSW 2469

srlup - Feedback for the draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy

From: "Kirsty Collins" <me@kirstycollins.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/14/2013 7:11 AM
Subject: Feedback for the draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy

Attention of The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

This is my feedback for the draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards Kirsty Collins
17 Riverview Rd Earlwood NSW

srlup - SEPP amendment 2013

From: "Lyn & Alan Hancock" <glenhaven@ipstarmail.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/14/2013 4:21 PM
Subject: SEPP amendment 2013
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, "Brad Hazzard" <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

The New South Wales government has proposed an amendment to the relevant State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) in response to a public outcry over coal seam gas (CSG) exploration and production near residential areas.

The amendment includes a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas and critical industry clusters. Whilst this is a significant step in the right direction, it fails to take into account the need for further environmental protections that safeguard our drinking water, our health and our conservation and agricultural lands.

It also fails to protect significant areas with thousands of horrified residents, such as the pristine Gloucester valley north of Newcastle (significantly affected by AGL's CSG Project), because the amendment doesn't extend to projects approved in principle but which have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval or commenced operation.

The Deputy Premier admitted on a recent 7:30 program that he wouldn't want a CSG well near his place because (1) it will reduce his property value and (2) there is always the potential for something to go wrong. If the Deputy Premier doesn't want it near his home, neither do the people of the Gloucester Valley.

We make the following requests and observations:

- The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
- The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
- The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food-producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
- The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
- The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval and have not yet commenced operation.

We understand submissions such as this **close today** – 12 April – and request your favourable consideration.

Alan and Lyn Hancock
 (residents of the Gloucester Valley)

srlup - Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

From: Stan <sas22@optusnet.com.au>
To: Coal Seam Gas Explorations <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/14/2013 6:24 PM
Subject: Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

The Director Strategic Regional Policy,
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

RE: Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment
on CSG Exclusion Zones

I wish to support the following,

The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.

The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.

The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours Sincerely,
S. Scanlon

srlup - CSG planning

From: Christie Woodward <sexywoody@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/14/2013 8:34 PM
Subject: CSG planning

Please consider the following points when considering the 2km buffer no go zone protections don't go far enough and that CSG and coal mining exclusion zones need to include:

- . The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you for your time in reading this email submission.

Kind Regards
Christie Woodward

Concerned resident of the Manning base catchment area and Mother of two.

12th April 2013

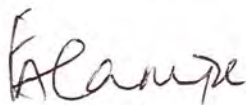
by email to srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

It is completely unacceptable that the NSW Government acknowledged the risk and concern associated with Coal Seam Gas extraction yet only applied exclusion zones to *some* of its residents and two identified Critical Industry Clusters. The following amendments are not only desired but necessary if you wish to protect *all* NSW residents and the future of food production in this State.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
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5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Lampe
Bobbiwaa
Narrabri NSW 2390

12th April 2013

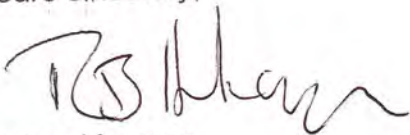
by email to srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

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4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Lampe', with a stylized, flowing script.

Richard Lampe
Bobbiwaa
Narrabri NSW 2390

srlup - Fwd: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: plan_comment
To: srlup
Date: 4/5/2013 9:28 AM
Subject: Fwd: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013
Attachments: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013; Fwd: Coal seam gas; Coal seam gas; To the director; Jennifer Granger; 4th April 2013*; Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013; Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013; SUBMISSION REGARDING WATER AND COAL SEAM GAS MINING IN AUSTRALIA; SUBMISSION CSG; Water, soil, air and coal seam gas; SUBMISSION for COAL SEAM GAS; SUBMISSION on COAL SEAM GAS; SUBMISSION - COAL SEAM GAS ; Director, Strategic Assessment Department of Planning & Infrastructure

4th April 2013

Mr Jeffrey Raymond Quinn

11 Eastview Road

Church Point NSW 2105

4th April 2013

Mr Jeffrey Raymond Quinn

â€œSummerleesâ€

11 Eastview Road

Church Point NSW 2105

Director, Strategic Assessment

Department of Planning & Infrastructureâ€

GPO Box 39â€ SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

To the Director,

I am making this submission today as a concerned citizen, husband of a dependent wife and father of a dependent only child.

Coal Seam Gas (methane from coal seams) extraction by various companies using methods including and associated with hydraulic fracturing pose a serious and present danger to our water supply's quality and quantity.

Australia is in the enviable position of having a lot of Coal Seam Gas mining history from overseas countries to guide us. In these countries, there is an abundance of documented evidence, of contamination to water and environment, causing major health impacts to animals, humans and wildlife. There have been many cases of illness and death reported, directly attributed to Coal Seam Gas Mining, contaminating water sources in the area.

Scientists worldwide tell us that Coal Seam Gas mining is very high risk. The cement wells that are used can never be guaranteed. It is common knowledge that a high percentage of casings leak, split or fail within the first twelve months. This poses a serious risk to our Aquifers and Water Catchments.

The following information shows previous coal seam gas environmental incidents, which relate to water contamination. It demonstrates that this industry has a history of mismanagement, caused by self-regulation.

Santos, CSG exploration drilling - Pilliga State Forest

Water Contamination

1. High levels of ammonia, methane, carbon dioxide, lithium, cyanide, bromide and boron
2. Levels of arsenic were 21 times higher in the contaminated zone than natural levels
3. Levels of lead 25 times higher in the contaminated zone than natural levels
4. Levels of Nickel 171 times higher in the contaminated zone than natural levels
5. Levels of Chlorides 191 times higher in the contaminated zone than natural levels
6. Levels of Petrochemicals 19 times higher in the contaminated zone than natural levels

A Santos report confirmed, a series of more than twenty failures including:-

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->Toxic Coal Seam Gas water, spilled at up to thirty nine well sites
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->Kangaroo deaths in water ponds
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->3. <!--[endif]-->Spillage of waste water, which led to extensive tree deaths
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->4. <!--[endif]-->High levels of salt in water discharged into creek systems that flow into the

Murray Darling Basin.

AGL, CSG Production drilling - (Sugar Loaf 3) Camden, (130 wells)

Explosion at Well (17/05/11)

1. This incident released plumes of contaminated water and foam into the atmosphere in the vicinity of housing and a water catchment feeder stream

2. AGL failed to report the incident for two days until the leakage was shown on Television.

Groundwater Monitoring

1. AGL has acknowledged, it has conducted no groundwater monitoring since the Camden coal seam gas project commenced operations in 2002

Arrow Energy

Water Contamination

1. Arrow Energy confirmed that benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene was found in well water associated with its coal-seam gas operation at Moranbah, west of Mackay

Environmental Concerns relating to Water

“The Contamination of drinking and irrigation water and the destruction of productive farmland are significant issues that concern the community. At risk are our agricultural lands, our drinking water catchments, and the state's biodiversity.

“The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association acknowledges that CSG extraction has the potential to deplete and contaminate local aquifers

“THE coal seam gas industry conceded (before the start of the first public hearing in NSW, held in Narrabri, of a Senate inquiry into the effects of coal seam gas mining) that Coal Seam Gas extraction will inevitably contaminate aquifers. There is no solution to contamination of our water supply, or Aquifers.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association told a public meeting in Sydney that good management could minimise the risks of water contamination, but never eliminate it. "Drilling will, to varying degrees, impact on adjoining aquifers," said the spokesman, Ross Dunn. "The extent of impact and whether the impact can be managed is the question."

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->CSG mining produces vast quantities of waste water, which represents a serious environmental risk. Each Megalitre of associated water brings up to 5-8 tonnes of salt previously stored safely underground. To date detailed plans for use or disposal of these huge quantities of salt are incomplete

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->If untreated CSG water comes into contact with good quality, high clay-content soils, such as those on the NSW Liverpool Plains, the soil becomes impervious to water. Plant roots cannot penetrate. The soil will become barren and useless for agriculture

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->If CSG water is accidentally released, for example through the failure of a dam wall or a spill, it could damage aquatic life in rivers and wetlands that depends of freshwater.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->One of the most significant environmental concerns is the Coal Seam Gas exploration at Oakdale beside Warragamba Dam, the major water supply for Sydney.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->The proposal for, up to 20,000 - 40,000 wells, in the Surat and Bowen Basins in the next 20 years alone. The environmental stakes are high. The Water Group expressed significant concerns about â€œthe general level of uncertainty associated with these proposals, and the inability of proponents to accurately quantify their individual and collective impacts over the life of their projects

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->Extraction of CSG typically involves pumping the water used in the extraction process plus any associated fracking fluid into large ponds for evaporation. These ponds may cover a large area and will subsequently need to be re-mediated and rehabilitated. The water is typically saline and should the ponds fail (e.g. leak) surrounding soil quality and vegetation could be compromised or in the worst case destroyed. If pond liners fail, it could also contribute to aquifer contamination with chemicals and saline water. If ponds are flooded, their contaminants are released to surface water. Evaporative ponds will inevitably result in the transfer of chemical pollutants into the atmosphere either in gas or particle phase.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->Radioactive tracers are used with various types of propane that include resin coated sand and man-made ceramics (eg polymers, nanomaterials) which can be retained in the produced water. This Radioactive material must be disposed of to an appropriate licensed facility.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->Gas companies in Australia are now developing and/or operating plants to treat the â€œproduced waterâ€™™ (for instance using reverse osmosis) and to on sell it to farmers for irrigation, domestic drinking water supply or cooling of power stations. However, reverse osmosis filtration has significant limitations and may not be successful in removing all contaminants. Concentrated hazardous wastes from evaporation ponds need to be disposed of to an appropriate licensed facility. This will add significant demands on regional waste management capacity (e.g. landfills).

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->The National Water Quality Management Strategy (NWQMS)

recommends moving away from relying solely on chemical specific guidelines coupled with water quality monitoring to an integrated approach using direct toxicity assessment (toxicity bioassays) and biological monitoring. Neither of these are required by the authorization

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->In Australia subsurface water is our greatest and least understood asset. This concurs with the latest planning data from the United Nations which was confirmed in a press release on the sixteenth of January 2012 by the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training. They explain that ninety seven percent of global fresh water is under the ground and consider it a matter of national security: â€œWhere our national security is concerned, we should spare no effort to assure it.â€

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->

<!--[if !supportLists]-->â€¢ <!--[endif]-->One submission to the Senate inquiry, from the medical group, Doctors for the Environment, outlined some of the potential health risks posed by coal seam gas mining. It said some of the compounds used during drilling, or released from underground by drilling, could "produce short-term health effects and some may contribute to systemic illness and/or cancer many years later". "The public health consideration of these matters has been inadequate, leaving the population exposed to potential health hazards,"

Iâ€™m very concerned, about the environment; coal seam gas will leave behind for future generations.

The long-term economic benefits of our agricultural and â€˜nature-basedâ€™ industries are a consideration. Our sustainable industries create a basis for our future and must be protected. Not replaced by the short-term economic and unsustainable gains of the CSG industry.

The Government tells us that an â€œIndependent Scientific Committeeâ€ has been allocated to investigate the CSG industry, but the FACT is, the majority of the committee are aligned with the mining industry, so cannot be considered impartial. In FACT the Committee has no real power, and can only make suggestions and recommendations to the Government on its findings. This does nothing to protect our Water.

Coal Seam Gas Mining is an experiment with the lives of millions of people, who's water will be severely compromised. Like Asbestos; the repercussions will impact on future generations if this is allowed to proceed.

Australia is one of the driest continents in the world, and as such our water supply is a matter of national security. It must not be sacrificed for short term monetary gains.

The COST OF COAL SEAM GAS EXTRACTION is just to GREAT and I call on the Government to BAN all CSG MINING. We must develop renewable's for our future energy needs.

Yours sincerely

Jeffrey Quinn

I acknowledge the Guringai people as being the traditional owners of the land on which I live and work. I pay my respects to the spirits of Guringai people.

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srlup - Fwd: Coal seam gas

From: Kane Ferguson <kane83@hotmail.com.au>
To: "plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au" <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 4:40 PM
Subject: Fwd: Coal seam gas

4th April 2013

Kane Ferguson
 29 Lugano Ave
 Dromana 3936 VIC

**Director, Strategic Assessment
 Department of Planning & Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 SYDNEY NSW 2001**

Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

To the Director,

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I am making this submission today as a concerned mother of four. The serious risks that Coal Seam Gas poses to our Water supply, MUST be acknowledged by our Government.

Australia is in the enviable position of having allot of Coal Seam Gas mining history from overseas countries to guide us. In these countries, there is an abundance of documented evidence, of contamination to water and environment, causing major health impacts to animals, humans and wildlife. There have been many cases of Illness and death reported, directly attributed to Coal Seam Gas Mining, contaminating water sources in the area.

Scientists worldwide tell us that Coal Seam Gas mining is very high risk. The cement wells that are used can never be guaranteed. It is common knowledge that a high percentage of casings leak, split or fail within the first twelve months. This poses a serious risk to our Aquifers and Water Catchments.

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Sincerely
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srup - Fwd: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: plan_comment
To: srup
Date: 4/5/2013 9:28 AM
Subject: Fwd: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013
Attachments: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013; Fwd: Coal seam gas; Coal seam gas; To the director; Jennifer Granger; 4th April 2013*; Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013; Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013; SUBMISSION REGARDING WATER AND COAL SEAM GAS MINING IN AUSTRALIA; SUBMISSION CSG; Water, soil, air and coal seam gas; SUBMISSION for COAL SEAM GAS; SUBMISSION on COAL SEAM GAS; SUBMISSION - COAL SEAM GAS ; Director, Strategic Assessment Department of Planning & Infrastructure

4th April 2013

Jodie A David
 18 Monica Street
 Tootgarook Vic 3943

**Director, Strategic Assessment
 Department of Planning & Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 SYDNEY NSW 2001**

Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

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Jodie David

From: Mia Eddie <Miaeddie55@yahoo.com.au>
To: "plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au" <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 4:04 pm
Subject: Jennifer Granger

Jennifer Granger
 Riversbend
 Karaak Flat NSW 2429

4 April 2013

Director, Strategic Assessment
 Department of Planning & Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

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Sent from my iPad

srlup - 4th April 2013*

From: Neen Uren <neen13@gmail.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 2:14 PM
Subject: 4th April 2013*

4th April 2013

Neen Uren
 PO Box 158
 Yallingup WA 6282

Director, Strategic Assessment

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Yours sincerely

Neen Uren

sr lup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: "Kathryn White" <kathe@exemail.com.au>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 1:29 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

4th April 2013

Kathryn White
 28 Lachlan St
 THIRROUL NSW 2515

Director, Strategic Assessment
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
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Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

To the Director,

I have used a form letter as the basis of this submission, but I have reviewed and agree with the contents. As a mother of two, I am seriously concerned about the risks and costs of Coal Seam Gas mining and disgusted by the seeming precedence being placed on short-term financial gain.

The serious risks that Coal Seam Gas poses to our Water supply, MUST be acknowledged by our Government.

In countries where coal seam gas mining has been implemented, there is an abundance of documented evidence of contamination to water and environment causing major health impacts to animals, humans and wildlife. There have been many cases of Illness and death reported, directly attributed to contamination by Coal Seam Gas Mining of water sources in the area.

Scientists worldwide tell us that Coal Seam Gas mining is very high risk. The cement wells that are used can never be guaranteed. It is common knowledge that a high percentage of casings leak, split or fail within the first twelve months. This poses a serious risk to our Aquifers and Water Catchments.

The following information shows previous coal seam gas environmental incidents, which relate to water contamination. It demonstrates that this industry has a history of mismanagement, caused by self-regulation.

Santos, CSG exploration drilling - Pilliga State Forest

Water Contamination

1. High levels of ammonia, methane, carbon dioxide, lithium, cyanide, bromide and boron
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Environmental Concerns relating to Water

Contamination of drinking and irrigation water and the destruction of productive farmland are significant issues that concern the community. At risk are our agricultural lands, our drinking water catchments, and the state's biodiversity.

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association acknowledges that CSG extraction has the potential to deplete and contaminate local aquifers

The coal seam gas industry conceded (before the start of the first public hearing in NSW, held in Narrabri, of a Senate inquiry into the effects of coal seam gas mining) that Coal Seam Gas extraction will inevitably contaminate aquifers. There is no solution to contamination of our water supply, or Aquifers.

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association told a public meeting in Sydney that good management could minimise the risks of water contamination, but never eliminate it. "Drilling will, to varying degrees, impact on adjoining aquifers," said the spokesman, Ross Dunn. "The extent of impact and whether the impact can be managed is the question."

Gas mining produces vast quantities of waste water, which represents a serious environmental risk. Each Megalitre of associated water brings up to 5-8 tonnes of salt previously stored safely underground. To date detailed plans for use or disposal of these huge quantities of salt are incomplete

Untreated CSG water comes into contact with good quality, high clay-content soils, such as those on the NSW Liverpool Plains, the soil becomes impervious to water. Plant roots cannot penetrate. The soil will become barren and useless for agriculture. If CSG water is accidentally released, for example through the failure of a dam wall or a spill, it could damage aquatic life in rivers and wetlands that depend on freshwater.

One of the most significant environmental concerns is the Coal Seam Gas exploration at Oakdale beside Warragamba Dam, the major water supply for Sydney.

The proposal for, up to 20,000 - 40,000 wells, in the Surat and Bowen Basins in the next 20 years alone. The environmental stakes are high. The Water Group expressed significant concerns about "the general level of uncertainty associated with these proposals, and the inability of proponents to accurately quantify their individual and collective impacts over the life of their projects

Extraction of CSG typically involves pumping the water used in the extraction process plus any associated fracking fluid into large ponds for evaporation. These ponds may cover a large area and will subsequently need to be re-mediated and rehabilitated. The water is typically saline and should the ponds fail (e.g. leak) surrounding soil quality and vegetation could be compromised or in the worst case destroyed. If pond liners fail, it could also contribute to aquifer contamination with chemicals and saline water. If ponds are flooded, their contaminants are released to surface water. Evaporative ponds will inevitably result in the transfer of chemical pollutants into the atmosphere either in gas or particle phase.

Radioactive tracers are used with various types of propane that include resin coated sand and man-made ceramics (eg polymers, nanomaterials) which can be retained in the produced water. This Radioactive material must be disposed of to an appropriate licensed facility.

Some companies in Australia are now developing and/or operating plants to treat the 'produced water' (for instance using reverse

sis) and to on sell it to farmers for irrigation, domestic drinking water supply or cooling of power stations. However, reverse osmosis filtration has significant limitations and may not be successful in removing all contaminants. Concentrated hazardous wastes from evaporation ponds need to be disposed of to an appropriate licensed facility. This will add significant demands on regional waste management capacity (e.g. landfills).

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Australia subsurface water is our greatest and least understood asset. This concurs with the latest planning data from the United Nations which was confirmed in a press release on the sixteenth of January 2012 by the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training. They explain that ninety seven percent of global fresh water is under the ground and consider it a matter of national security: „Where our national security is concerned, we should spare no effort to assure it."

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I'm very concerned, about the environment; coal seam gas will leave behind for future generations.

The long-term economic benefits of our agricultural and 'nature-based' industries are a consideration. Our sustainable industries create a basis for our future and must be protected. Not replaced by the short-term economic and unsustainable gains of the CSG industry.

The Government tells us that an "Independent Scientific Committee" has been allocated to investigate the CSG industry, but the FACT is, the majority of the committee are aligned with the mining industry, so cannot be considered impartial. In FACT the Committee has no real power, and can only make suggestions and recommendations to the Government on its findings. This does nothing to protect our Water.

Coal Seam Gas Mining is an experiment with the lives of millions of people, who's water will be severely compromised. Like Asbestos; the repercussions will impact on future generations if this is allowed to proceed.

Australia is one of the driest continents in the world, and as such our water supply is a matter of national security. It must not be sacrificed for short term monetary gains.

The cost and risk of Coal Seam Gas extraction is too high. I call on the Government to ban all CSG mining. We must develop renewable solutions for our future energy needs.

Yours sincerely

Kathryn White

srlup - SUBMISSION REGARDING WATER AND COAL SEAM GAS MINING IN AUSTRALIA

From: Tan Hibbert <hibbland@bigpond.com>
To: <ec.sen@aph.gov.au>, <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 12:25 PM
Subject: SUBMISSION REGARDING WATER AND COAL SEAM GAS MINING IN AUSTRALIA

4th April 2013

Tania Hibbert
 54 Caley St
 CHIFLEY NSW 2036
 email: hibbland@bigpond.com

Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Director, Strategic Assessment
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

To the Director,

I make this submission today as the mother of four children and a seriously concerned Australian citizen. I make it as a resident of Sydney who grew up in the bush - Goondiwindi and Moree, where I have family. I have family in Tamworth and on farmland in Kyogle, in particular near Doubtful Creek. The serious risks that Coal Seam Gas poses to our water supply and public health must be acknowledged by our Government. The cost of Coal Seam Gas Extraction is much too great and I call on the Government to BAN ALL CSG MINING and to develop renewable's for our future energy needs.

In Australia we have the opportunity to learn from the tragic mistakes made by overseas countries through their history with Coal Seam Gas mining. It's not too late! From these countries there is plenty of documented evidence of contamination to water and environment, causing major health impacts to animals, humans and wildlife. There have been many cases of illness and death reported directly attributed to Coal Seam Gas Mining contaminating water sources in the area.

Scientists worldwide tell us that Coal Seam Gas mining is very high risk. The cement wells that are used can never be guaranteed. It is commonly known that a high percentage of casings leak, split or fail within the first twelve months. **This poses a serious risk to our aquifers and water catchments.**

The following information shows previous coal seam gas environmental incidents, which relate to water contamination. It demonstrates that this industry has a history of mismanagement caused by self-regulation.

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- The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association acknowledges that CSG extraction has the potential to deplete and contaminate local aquifers
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- The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association told a public meeting in Sydney that good management could minimise the risks of water contamination, but never eliminate it. "Drilling will, to varying degrees, impact on adjoining aquifers," said the spokesman, Ross Dunn. "The extent of impact

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- One submission to the Senate inquiry from the medical group Doctors for the Environment outlined some of the potential health risks posed by coal seam gas mining. It said some of the compounds used during drilling, or released from underground by drilling, could "produce short-term health effects and some may contribute to systemic illness and/or cancer many years later". "The public health consideration of these matters has been inadequate, leaving the population exposed to potential health hazards."

The long-term economic benefits of our agricultural and 'nature-based' industries are a consideration. Our sustainable industries create a basis for our future and must be protected. Not replaced by the short-term economic and unsustainable gains of the CSG industry.

I am appalled that this industry has been allowed to get a foothold in this country as it already has. I am very concerned about the environment coal seam gas will leave behind for us and future generations.

The Government tells us that an "Independent Scientific Committee" has been allocated to investigate the CSG industry, but the fact is that the majority of the committee are aligned with the mining industry and cannot be considered impartial. The Committee is a toothless tiger with no real power and can only make suggestions and recommendations to the Government on its findings. This does nothing to protect our water!

Coal Seam Gas Mining is a shocking experiment with the lives of millions of people whose water will be seriously and adversely affected. Like asbestos; the repercussions will impact on future generations if this is allowed to proceed.

Australia is one of the driest continents in the world and our water supply is a matter of national security. It must NOT be sacrificed for short term monetary gains!

Again, I reiterate; the cost to this nation of Coal Seam Gas Extraction is far too great and I call on the Government to BAN ALL CSG MINING and develop renewable's for our future energy needs.

Yours sincerely,

Tania Hibbert

srlop - SUBMISSION CSG

From: Rex Beasley <rexbeasley@hotmail.com>
To: "plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au" <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 11:29 AM
Subject: SUBMISSION CSG

4th April 2013

Ms Rex J Beasley
36 Mintbush Crescent
Worribee NSW 2540

Director, Strategic Assessment

**Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001**

Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

To the Director,

I am making this submission today because I am very concerned about the serious risks that Coal Seam Gas poses to our environment, human health and water supply. This risk **MUST** be acknowledged by our Government.

Australia is in the enviable position of having allot of Coal Seam Gas mining history from overseas countries to guide us. In these countries, there is an abundance of documented evidence, of contamination to water and environment, causing major health impacts to animals, humans and wildlife. There have been many cases of Illness and death reported, directly attributed to Coal Seam Gas Mining, contaminating water sources in the area.

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Rex J Beasley

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srlup - Water, soil, air and coal seam gas

From: "Kim Stephan" <kim@stephanconsulting.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 11:25 AM
Subject: Water, soil, air and coal seam gas

4th April 2013

Kim Stephan

27 Prince Street,

Murwillumbah,

NSW 2484

Director, Strategic Assessment

Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

To the Director,

I am making this submission today as a concerned mother and protector of the planet. The serious risks that Coal Seam Gas poses to our water, soil, air, increased bushfires and community health MUST be acknowledged by our Government.

Australia is in the enviable position of having allot of Coal Seam Gas mining history from overseas countries to guide us. In these countries, there is an abundance of documented evidence, of contamination to water and environment, causing major health impacts to animals, humans and wildlife. There have been many cases of Illness and death reported, directly attributed to Coal Seam Gas Mining, contaminating water sources in the area.

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I'm very concerned, about the environment; coal seam gas will leave behind for future generations.

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The COST OF COAL SEAM GAS EXTRACTION is just too GREAT and I call on the Government to BAN all CSG MINING. We must develop renewable's for our future energy needs.

Yours sincerely

Kim Stephan B.Sc. (Hons)

Ecologist

(02) 6672 7578

Fax: (07) 31034281

Mob: 0418692442

srlup - SUBMISSION for COAL SEAM GAS

From: Isaac Robbins <isaac.robbs@yaho.com.au>
To: "plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au" <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 11:24 AM
Subject: SUBMISSION for COAL SEAM GAS

4th April 2013
Ms Isaac Robbins
59 Melba Road
Lalor Park NSW 2147

Director, Strategic Assessment
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

To the Director,

I am making this submission today because I am very concerned about Coal Seam Gas and the risk it poses to our environment, human welfare and water supply. This risk **MUST** be acknowledged by our Government.

Australia is in the enviable position of having allot of Coal Seam Gas mining history from overseas countries to guide us. In these countries, there is an abundance of documented evidence, of contamination to water and environment, causing major health impacts to animals, humans and wildlife. There have been many cases of Illness and death reported, directly attributed to Coal Seam Gas Mining, contaminating water sources in the area.

Scientists worldwide tell us that Coal Seam Gas mining is very high risk. The cement wells that are used can never be guaranteed. It is common knowledge that a high percentage of casings leak,

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Yours sincerely

Isaac Robbins

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srlup - SUBMISSION on COAL SEAM GAS

From: Ms Anne Dean <msannedean@rocketmail.com>
To: "plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au" <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 11:14 AM
Subject: SUBMISSION on COAL SEAM GAS

4th April 2013
Ms Anne Dean
51/45 Bungaribee Road
Blacktown NSW 2148

Director, Strategic Assessment
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

To the Director,

I am making this submission today because I am gravely concerned about the serious risks that Coal Seam Gas poses to our water supply, The dangers of CSG MUST be acknowledged by our Government.

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Yours sincerely

Ms Anne Dean
51/45 Bungarribee Road
Blacktown NSW 2148

srlup - SUBMISSION - COAL SEAM GAS

From: "anne dean" <adean4@bigpond.net.au>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 11:07 AM
Subject: SUBMISSION - COAL SEAM GAS

4th April 2013

Ms Annette Marie Dean

36 Mintbush Crescent

Worrigee NSW 2540

Director, Strategic Assessment

**Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001**

Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

To the Director,

I am making this submission today as a concerned grandmother mother of seven. The serious risks that Coal Seam Gas poses to our Water supply, MUST be acknowledged by our Government.

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4th April 2013

Melinda Wilson
59 Melba Road
LALOR PARK NSW 2147

**Director, Strategic Assessment
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001**

Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

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- CSG mining produces vast quantities of waste water, which represents a serious environmental risk. Each Megalitre of associated water brings up to 5-8 tonnes of salt previously stored safely underground. To date detailed plans for use or disposal of these huge quantities of salt are incomplete
- If untreated CSG water comes into contact with good quality, high clay-content soils, such as those on the NSW Liverpool Plains, the soil becomes impervious to water. Plant roots cannot penetrate. The soil will become barren and useless for agriculture
- If CSG water is accidentally released, for example through the failure of a dam wall or a spill, it could damage aquatic life in rivers and wetlands that depends of freshwater.
- One of the most significant environmental concerns is the Coal Seam Gas exploration at Oakdale beside Warragamba Dam, the major water supply for Sydney.
- The proposal for, up to 20,000 - 40,000 wells, in the Surat and Bowen Basins in the next 20 years alone. The environmental stakes are high. The Water Group expressed significant concerns about "the general level of uncertainty associated with these proposals, and the inability of proponents to accurately quantify their individual and collective impacts over the life of their projects
- Extraction of CSG typically involves pumping the water used in the extraction process plus any associated fracking fluid into large ponds for evaporation. These ponds may cover a large area and will subsequently need to be re-mediated and rehabilitated. The water is typically saline and should the ponds fail (e.g. leak) surrounding soil quality and vegetation could be compromised or in the worst case destroyed. If pond liners fail, it could also contribute to aquifer contamination with chemicals and saline water. If ponds are flooded, their contaminants are released to surface water. Evaporative ponds will inevitably result in the transfer of chemical pollutants into the atmosphere either in gas or particle phase.

- Radioactive tracers are used with various types of propane that include resin coated sand and man-made ceramics (eg polymers, nanomaterials) which can be retained in the produced water. This Radioactive material must be disposed of to an appropriate licensed facility.
-
- Gas companies in Australia are now developing and/or operating plants to treat the 'produced water' (for instance using reverse osmosis) and to on sell it to farmers for irrigation, domestic drinking water supply or cooling of power stations. However, reverse osmosis filtration has significant limitations and may not be successful in removing all contaminants. Concentrated hazardous wastes from evaporation ponds need to be disposed of to an appropriate licensed facility. This will add significant demands on regional waste management capacity (e.g. landfills).
-
- The National Water Quality Management Strategy (NWQMS) recommends moving away from relying solely on chemical specific guidelines coupled with water quality monitoring to an integrated approach using direct toxicity assessment (toxicity bioassays) and biological monitoring. Neither of these are required by the authorization
-
- In Australia subsurface water is our greatest and least understood asset. This concurs with the latest planning data from the United Nations which was confirmed in a press release on the sixteenth of January 2012 by the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training. They explain that ninety seven percent of global fresh water is under the ground and consider it a matter of national security: „Where our national security is concerned, we should spare no effort to assure it."
- One submission to the Senate inquiry, from the medical group, Doctors for the Environment, outlined some of the potential health risks posed by coal seam gas mining. It said some of the compounds used during drilling, or released from underground by drilling, could "produce short-term health effects and some may contribute to systemic illness and/or cancer many years later". "The public health consideration of these matters has been inadequate, leaving the population exposed to potential health hazards,"

I'm very concerned, about the environment; coal seam gas will leave behind for future generations. The long-term economic benefits of our agricultural and 'nature-based' industries are a consideration. Our sustainable industries create a basis for our future and must be protected. Not replaced by the short-term economic and unsustainable gains of the CSG industry.

The Government tells us that an "Independent Scientific Committee" has been allocated to investigate the CSG industry, but the FACT is, the majority of the committee are aligned with the mining industry, so cannot be considered impartial. In FACT the Committee has no real power, and can only make suggestions and recommendations to the Government on its findings. This does nothing to protect our Water.

Coal Seam Gas Mining is an experiment with the lives of millions of people, who's water will be severely compromised. Like Asbestos; the repercussions will impact on future generations if this is allowed to proceed.

Australia is one of the driest continents in the world, and as such our water supply is a matter of national security. It must not be sacrificed for short term monetary gains.

The COST OF COAL SEAM GAS EXTRACTION is just too GREAT and I call on the Government to BAN all CSG MINING. We must develop renewable's for our future energy needs.

Yours sincerely

Melinda Wilson

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: "Bob Wheeldon" <bob@wheeldon.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 3/26/2013 12:06 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I wish to object to our property, Rosemount at Rosemount Road Denman, being included in the Maps as Critical Equine Cluster and Critical Viticulture Cluster.

The property is no longer in use as a winery and has no equine activities on it. Unfortunately the viticulture industry is very small in the Upper Hunter. If our area is a cluster, it is a cattle industry cluster.

We do not believe there should be any restriction on use of our land without a scientific basis. We have no intention of encouraging mining on our property but do not believe restrictions should be placed on private land without solid reasons.

Mapping vast areas by computer without ground truthing leads to inaccurate mapping. I believe this has taken place here and I request the maps be altered.

Kind regards
Bob Wheeldon



srlup - proposed csg exclusion zones

From: "Len & Chris Williamson" <lcwillo@bigpond.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 3/26/2013 2:00 PM
Subject: proposed csg exclusion zones

I strongly object to the loophole that allows councils to opt out of the 2km residential exclusion zone for csg mining. this renders the proposed regulations virtually useless & a farce.
The 2 km zone must be a firm & untouchable regulation
Len Williamson
14 St James Rd
Varroville 2566

srlup - Submission

From: Hayley Katzen <hayleykatzen@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 3/27/2013 2:51 PM
Subject: Submission

Dear NSW Government

I write regarding the Government's proposed coal seam gas amendments to the Mining SEPP.

As a person who lives on a cattle farm, an hour away from the nearest town, I am concerned that these amendments fail to address the risk to my family and animals' safety posed by coal seam gas mining. Are our lives any less significant than people who live in more densely populated areas?

Apart from this personal concern, I am concerned about the potential for csg production in Casino, our nearest service centre. I am opposed to the loophole Government has created where certain councils can opt out of amendments regarding the exclusion zone. This does not appear to emphasise the danger of the csg industry and the need for caution. Research which suggests higher concentrations of methane in the air, salt spills and damage to water ways should not be disregarded by Councils - but could be. How can councils 'opt out' of such a significant decision when they don't have enough information and may be run by business interests rather than the community's best interests?

I am also concerned that the amendments do not protect water catchments and agricultural land, and are unclear as to whether it will include tight sands/shale gas.

Thank you
Hayley Katzen

srlup - Comments on CSG Regulation changes - amendments to the SEPP

From: "Jack Claff" <jclaff@bigpond.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 3/29/2013 4:27 PM
Subject: Comments on CSG Regulation changes - amendments to the SEPP

I'm very glad that the Government is responding to community concerns about CSG mining and exploration. However there are a few worrying aspects to the draft mining SEPP amendments regarding CSG Exclusion Zones.

- 1. The definition of Coal Seam Gas needs to be broadened to protect areas that may be mined and fracked for other forms of gas such as tight gas and other mining operations. The technology is the same, the risks are the same and the water, air, soil and residential areas need the same protection.*
- 2. **Get rid of the Opt-out clause for local councils.** It looks like a cynical attempt to allow CSG mining near residential areas using a back-door so that the Government has its hands clean. But it isn't a level playing field. Councils want cash and mining companies can write large cheques if they think they can get their hands on profitable gas. It's too dangerous and too tempting. Once the damage is done no amount of money will fix it.*
- 3. There is still no protection for water catchments. Please understand that a lot of people now realise that water is more precious than oil and gas. If you pollute the water, the cost can be incalculable. There are certain things you can't fix such as leaking radioactive toxins and carcinogens into an aquifer.*
- 4. You have to extend the definition of Critical Industry Clusters beyond wine grapes and horse pasture. It looks like the Government singled those industries out because they exist in electorates that the Government values highly. The same protection has got to extend to other forms of agriculture. I am especially concerned about my own area, the Northern Rivers but there are many other prime agricultural areas like Gloucester and the Liverpool Plains and areas of important environmental significance such as the Pilliga that need to be protected from the Coal Seam Gas and mining industry.*

*Please take my concerns seriously,
 Jack Claff.*

srlup - RE: State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)

From: ME <tha_karla@yahoo.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/3/2013 1:23 PM
Subject: RE: State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)

Dear Sirs

RE: State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)Mining.

The Protection of NSW Water and Agriculture Land

As there is a **current moratorium** on fracking and or Coal Seam Gas (CGS) in Victoria, France, Bulgaria and even some states of the USA due to health and environment concerns it is a little concerning that this practice is rampant in NSW!

The World Health Organisation is yet to release a report (due in 2014) outlining the dangers and detrimental effects to people, water supply and land by the chemicals used in the extraction (fracking) process. To my understanding this process is also still the unknown to both Australian industry, Government and scientist in regards to long term impact environmentally and medically.

It is abhorrent that the Federal and State Government would allow exploration permits to companies using unknown and seemingly dangerous substances around water supplies and agricultural land, especially in flood prone areas where the holding ponds of large quantities of chemicals can seep into prime land used for growing purposes or even worse whole towns water supplies.

Further more once a mine has been exhausted or 'tested and explored' this will deem hundred of acres contaminated by chemicals, useless for future agriculture. Shouldn't we be looking at sustainability of food supply, and concentration on the exploration of tried and tested, safe, sustainable energies such as solar and wind power before we ruin our state with acres of wells containing thousands of litres of a harmful by product?

I do beleive that should the citizens of this state be effected in any way what so ever by CSG or the process of obtaining CSG, not only should the mining companies be held accountable but also the State Government for failing to protect the citizens as well as the federal Government for allowing and delegating this process to begin with.

Regards,

Karla

srlup - make rules that protect the environment

From: "Alison Lyssa" <alison.lyssa@sustainabletransport.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/3/2013 1:44 PM
Subject: make rules that protect the environment

The Director
Strategic Regional Policy,
Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Dear Officer

The State Environmental Planning Policy for mining doesn't not give nearly adequate protection for our water, air, farmlands, woodlands and forests. It is not just "critical industry clusters" that matter, because others outside those clusters need vital protection from mining that poisons soil and water and air.

Local communities must have the right to say no to gas fields.

It is crucial to protect water catchments from fracking and all other forms of mining or gas extraction that use toxic chemicals and turn good water into poison.

We have to look after our earth and you are in a position to give it much much better protection.

Listen to what communities are saying. Put the protections into law.

Yours sincerely

Alison Lyssa

3/125 Old South Head Road

Bondi Junction NSW 2022

Ph: 02 9389 2084

Email: alison.lyssa@sustainabletransport.com.au

srlup - CSG issues ...

From: "Rosie" <rosiew55@tpg.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 11:53 PM
Subject: CSG issues ...

the 2km exclusion zone policy is ok. maybe difficult to measure.

however I think the nsw government is hiding behind this tactic to try to evade all the other measures that need looking at –
and farmland is one of them.

recently I remember the dam at dungog that seemed so bloody NECESSARY.

but after years of struggle by the residents there – hey - it wasn't that necessary !

Rosie Wagstaff
27 wilson lane darlington 2008

srlup - Coal Seam Gas

From: Jenny <jenkate1@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 10:45 PM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas

Jenny Cottle

50 Riverview Rd

Oyster Bay 2225

04/04/2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a concerned Australian Citizen and I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

I am grateful for the NSW government response to community concerns about CSG with a plan to amend the mining SEPP to set controls and a buffer zone to stop the development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters (horse studs and vineyards). However, this change does not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. Allowing CSG development to occur within built-up areas that may not be zoned as 'residential', such as Fullerton Cove where 86 families live within a 2km radius of the proposed drilling, is extremely risky.

The SEPP does not take into account any impacts of CSG mining operations within water catchment areas, including in Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Special Areas. The Apex CSG project in the Illawarra escarpment will be drilling close to three key water catchments including the SCA Woronora Special Area, which provides water for the people of Sydney and Wollongong.

To extract CSG, millions of litres of water are pumped from deep beneath the earth, threatening ancient aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee"^[1].

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to “opt out” of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. While empowering local councils to have a say on development is inherently a good idea, this clause would allow gas companies to circumvent the safeguards by pressuring councils to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment.

Key points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment:

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council “opt out” clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Cottle

srlup - Coal Seam Gas/Fracking

From: Paul Harris <harrisfm@aapt.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 10:35 PM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas/Fracking
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

Paul
 Harris
 2
 Musgrave
 Court.
 Evanston
 Gardens,
 SA, 5116

4 April
 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 Sydney 2001

Re : Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

I believe that there is no such thing as "safe" fracking and that the technique should be completely banned to preserve our health, our productive agriculture and our natural resources, including some iconic tourist destinations. We are struggling to meet irrigation water requirements but fracking will use large quantities of water, with the result being a toxic mess that needs storage. I believe it is the fracking fields in North America that make such a blot on the landscape they are now visible from space.

As such I see the 2 km exclusion zone (that can be avoided by a Local Government decision!) as ludicrous as trying to hold back a bulldozer with a feather!

I am NOT against trying to protect people from big business, but please make it REAL protection - maybe 100 km radius around agricultural land with NO exemptions will be a bit more acceptable.

Yours Sincerely,
 Paul Harris

srlup - Opposition to CSG

From: kym kilpatrick <kym.kilpatrick@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/5/2013 7:45 AM
Subject: Opposition to CSG

The Director Strategic Regional Policy

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I live in the New England Area but also have property in the Clarence River Catchment area. I wish to voice my opposition to all Coal Seam Gas mining at this time. The process by which it has progressed so far in this country appears to be, at the very least, underhanded and bullying with a lack of transparency from both the mining industry itself and it seems, the respective governments.

I understand the respective governments interest in supporting the industry given the potential financial gains, but I worry intensely that in the rush to gain important factors such as the potential and it seems increasingly probable risks to farming, human well-being and the environment.

The recent policy of restricting mining from a 2 km range of residential areas and critical rural industries is a hopeful start that you, as our elected representatives are listening, but it is not enough.

Water is a critical issue in Australia. Our water supplies both above and below ground are too precious to risk, and the evidence is mounting that CSG is a direct threat. History will judge the current players, but may not be able to rectify the situation if our water ways and aquifers are poisoned. Please don't be short sighted.

Please halt all CSG until it can be assured to be safe. And not by the industry stake holders who do not invite trust and have been far less than transparent.

Yours sincerely,

Kym Kilpatrick.

Dr Kym Kilpatrick,

PO Box 1435.

Armidale,

2350.

5th April, 2013

srlup - Mining SEPP a Submission - to The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

From: Scott Branden <scottbranden@netspace.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/8/2013 11:04 PM
Subject: Mining SEPP a Submission - to The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Please consider my submission points below with respect to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) CSG exclusion zones.

Please understand the 2 kilometre exclusion zone is simply insufficient in my opinion, depending on the local geology of any given region it needs to be at least 8 kilometres for residential areas and 80 kilometres for farming, water catchment*, and sensitive environmental areas.

Here are my points for consideration:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 8km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions of at least 80 kilometres for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards
 Scott Branden BSc. Envtn. Dsgn. (Environmental Design)
 (* downstream from any water catchment area and NO CSG mining up stream.

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[See Electroentomorphics here at http://www.scottbranden.com/](http://www.scottbranden.com/)

[Science Fiction Machines at www.sciencefictionmachines.com](http://www.sciencefictionmachines.com)

Thank you for your interest.

Kind regards
Scott Branden

9 Cards Lane Olinda Victoria Australia

Scott Branden BSc, Envn Dsgn - Designer - Industrial Artist
scottbranden@netspace.net.au
www.scottbranden.com
www.sciencefictionmachines.com

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srlup - coal seam gas in NSW and 2km exclusion zones

From: Stephanie Luke <stephanieluke1@yahoo.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/8/2013 3:07 PM
Subject: coal seam gas in NSW and 2km exclusion zones
CC: "office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au" <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>, "office@premier.nsw.gov.au" <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>

Stephanie Luke
19 Spencer Street
Bathurst NSW 2795
0400 827 196

8 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

I currently live in South Bathurst where I am told we have the best water catchment area in Australia.

I moved from South Australia for several reasons, including the fact the Murray River System was so completely degraded and I could not see a future without good quality drinking water. At that time we were anticipating the development of Roxby Downs using the underground aquifer systems.

I found it difficult to see why a government would jeopardise that state's limited water resources.

I am even more surprised and confused why a NSW government would knowingly choose to allow river systems and water ways to be threatened by extraction of CSG with so many question marks as to its safety.

Not only is a 2km exclusion zone insufficient to provide protection, following the 4 Corners Program, I am wondering whether any one can claim any long term benefits of fracking to Australians.

I entreat you to please think about this very seriously.

Please place yourself in the shoes of someone living here in 50 years time. The time for making money through the destruction of delicate and limited agricultural land has passed.

I do not want to live in a toxic waste dump.

yours sincerely
Stephanie Luke

srlup - re Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: "P.Holt and J.Friend" <thehollowvalley@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/8/2013 1:47 PM
Subject: re Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013
Attachments: a csg-free Northern Rivers.doc

re:Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

"Families in residential areas should not have to worry about their quality of life being affected by the noise, visual impacts and other effects of coal seam gas mining," Mr O'Farrell said.
 I ask you to give the same exclusion rights to all families living within 2km of CSG/coal mining, and a similar buffer zone for food production land.

The Northern Rivers is a unique area well known for the beauty of the rural landscape. The land in this area has always fetched a premium price owing to the popularity of living surrounded by natural beauty.

The industrialisation of the rural areas of the Northern Rivers by the Coal Seam Gas industry is in direct opposition to the ethos of the area.

My husband and I farm 1300 acres in the Kyogle area. The threat to our water and land impinges on the ability of our farm enterprise to survive. Our income depends on being able to sell uncompromised produce.

Our superannuation relies on the ability to sell our land assets in the future.

A summary of the reasons why the Northern Rivers should be declared a CSG free zone is attached.

Please listen to our community

Patricia Holt

Land Use

Mining and coal seam gas land use conflicts with other industries and land uses particularly in relation to agricultural land.

- The idea that land used for food production and food security (an essential Australian requirement) will be subject to a cost benefit analyses with mining (which has no life sustaining properties) is indicating that the Government has Australians priorities wrong.
- Sustainable land use requires that human activity only uses nature's resources at a rate at which they can be replenished naturally. Coal seam gas mining does not do this.
- The decline of land values must be factored in to Gas industry costs. Landowners pay rates while the Gas industry reaps the benefits.

Biodiversity

Farmers and landholders are best at maintaining the landscape and its' animals – they are there for the long-term. The CSG industry is talking 15 years. Then what will they leave? How will they be held responsible?

Water

- Water quality is irreparable and consequently **any** possible contamination cannot be tolerated.
- The groundwater resource is not infinite and any groundwater use needs to show benefit to the Community.
- The ponds holding “produced water” will be another liability of CSG industry. How are these ponds prevented from over-flowing in the annual floods
- The effect of drilling of wells in areas of alluvial waters to depths over 1km is unknown. What is the effect of extra stress applied deep under the water table? How secure are shafts in areas of high soil movement? What tests have been carried out on the properties of the chemicals being used? under stress? Mixing with earth elements under pressure?

Infrastructure

- Roads - the CSG industry does not pay rates on the land used, so where is contribution to local Council for road damage and maintenance?
- Energy – The CSG Industry is sending most of its gas offshore not to benefit the local area. Our energy can be produced onsite (our large cattle farm runs on Solar Power) without the harmful and possible contamination issues rising from CSG.

Health

The amount of stress the CSG issue is causing the community is hidden. A survey of local GPs may show increased use of anti-depressants since 2011.

The health effects being found in the Qld gas fields is another reason that areas where population density is high as in the Northern Rivers should be declared CSG free.

Patricia Holt

srlup - Protect the Pilliga from CSG

From: "Cheryl Nugent" <chezsnatives@skymesh.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/8/2013 1:10 PM
Subject: Protect the Pilliga from CSG

Dear Sir/Madam,

I feel compelled to write and show my disrespect as a public citizen for the CSG Mining toward our Pilliga State Forest. I have been involved indirectly in what has been happening and now I want to say why I think this scheme is simply not taken lightly by any of us in and around this area.

Everything today evolves around the big dollar, but have you forgotten the people who have to live here ? We live here because we appreciate and value everything natural around us and now you see fit to take it away - or to pollute it to the level we know you are going to ? The Pilliga mouse is rare and belongs where he is, just as nature intended. What gives you the right to allow anyone to put our precious Wildlife at risk and also our very own living standards. Where has the 'do whats best for Australia' gone, you already have the worste name World Wide, isnt that enough ? Ask anyone about our endangered list and our extinction rate - have you even considered looking 20years ahead. I think that went out a long time ago with Governments as did our rights as citizens. You might be interested to know there are little plans going on everywhere all over the Country of people (of all ages) becoming fed up with how our Country is run. Have you wondered if everyone began to step up and demand our rights back as Australian Citizens what might happen, because it is growing and it is getting stronger. You keep pushing and you might find that something will break. We happen to care about FUTURE and if the plans go ahead to destroy our beautiful Pilliga then you might find the Mining Companies might have a lot more problems than they predicted. I don't think that's a good investment for their money. Take a stand for yourself, look at us Australians and stop ANY further mining ventures in our Pilliga State Forest.

Regards,
Cheryl Nugent.
Gunnedah NSW.

srlup - Submission on Mining SEPP amendments

From: Peter Prineas <pprineas@ozemail.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/8/2013 11:34 AM
Subject: Submission on Mining SEPP amendments
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>

8 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I live in Sydney and I am a frequent visitor to regional areas of the state.

The NSW Government is proposing to amend the SEPP controlling mining to protect residential areas and some rural industries such as vineyards and horse studs.

Such an amendment is needed, however it does not go far enough.

The amendment includes a provision for local councils to "opt out" of the new controls. This provision should be removed or at the very least made subject to carefully defined conditions to ensure that it is not abused.

Water catchments, areas of high nature conservation value (of whatever tenure). and high quality rural lands also need to be protected from the impacts of coal mining and CSG extraction.

The Mining SEPP needs to be reviewed to ensure that it gives adequate protection to groundwater aquifers.

The Mining SEPP and the proposed amendment also fail to adequately protect public health from the effects of coal mining and CSG extraction.

The SEPP amendment should be widened to ensure that the environment and public health are properly protected.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Prineas

Peter Prineas

32 Calder Road
Darlington NSW 2008

--

srlup - Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

From: "Ray Annis-Brown" <rannis-b@bigpond.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/8/2013 11:32 AM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

I note the amendment dated 14th instant in this regard and welcome it's changes which address many but not all of the concerns people held.

The note to proposed Schedule 3 apparently applies only to Zone R5 Large Lot Residential and such zoning can certainly give an area a "village character". I would suggest from his announcements the Minister would expect the Department of Planning take a sympathetic view of the local residents' wishes when determining the 'criteria of land of village character'.

In my view Schedule 3 should be extended to include land having a village character but not necessarily zoned R5 Large Lot Residential such as the Village of Laguna in the Lower Hunter zoned RU2. Laguna has a Church, Public School, Community Hall, General Store, Rural Fire Station, Cricket Oval and a dozen or so houses within walking distance. It also has well documented historic and heritage significance. I nominate Laguna only because I am familiar with the district but I'm sure there must be other locations in the State which would be considered by most people to have a village character and qualify as an exclusion zone under the Act.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Annis-Brown
184A Davistown Road, Yattalunga. 2251.
Ph 02 4369 4746 mob 0418 693650

srlup - CSG submission

From: "David and Mandy" <fivemile@activ8.net.au>
To: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <Barwon@parliament.nsw.gov.au>, <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/8/2013 10:15 AM
Subject: CSG submission

David John Gillan
 "Poppinguy" NSW 2400

8-

4-2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of both Moree Plains Shire Council and Gwydir Shire council.

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy. This is my submission to the Government, to make a rural residence buffer zone to be at least the same as a township.

The Federal Government and NSW State Government should put a stop CSG straight away.

There have not been sufficient impact assessments done on water aquifers, the affect of river levels dropping with the CSG mining taking water out of the aquifers.

Air quality is affected by the leaking of CSG. Just ask Tara residents who are dealing with nose bleeds, headaches and noise from the gas drilling rigs. This is all happening 3kms away not 2kms as the official buffer zones say is safe for towns. Yet villages or property homesteads do not have this provision of a 2km buffer zone.

Four Corners has bought alot of truths out that you choose to ignore. **CSG has not proven to be safe or ecologically sound , to the water table, aquifers, rivers, residences or native and domestic wildlife.**

You are rushing the acceptance of CSG for financial gain rather than looking to the future and assessing the potential hazards to the Australian people. This happening on your watch. This is your opportunity to rectify a huge mistake.

Yours sincerely,

David Gillan Amanda Gillan

srlup - State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) re exclusion zones from Coal Seam Gas developments

From: "Orders" <orders@triballine.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/8/2013 9:54 AM
Subject: State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) re exclusion zones from Coal Seam Gas developments

Hi there,

This is a short submission re your Exhibited amendments to the State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) re exclusion zones from Coal Seam Gas developments.

I believe that Clause 9A (Exclusion Zones) Paragraph 4D which refers to critical industry cluster land is ambiguous it needs to take into account the critical industry of Water Catchment, after all water is the most critical industry we have, this needs to be clarified in the policy document with a separate paragraph covering water catchment and ground water land as an exclusion zone.

Currently we are restricted to the type of rural production and industry that can operate in our water catchments because of concerns over water contamination. It has not been proven to my satisfaction that CSG mining is safe and will not contaminate both ground water and catchment water due to the chemicals that are used and/or released by the CSG mining process, therefore I believe it would be an irresponsible act by any government to allow CSG mining in these Water Industry Critical areas and this policy area should be made crystal clear, so that there can be no misunderstanding in the future.

thanks

Merilyn Hyde
1554 Barkers Lodge Road
Oakdale NSW 2570

From: "McGillion, Christopher" <CMcgillion@csu.edu.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
CC: "office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au" <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au...>
Date: 4/8/2013 9:50 am
Subject: CSG exclusion zone

While I commend the O'Farrell Government's amendment of the relevant State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) with respect to coal seam gas exploration exclusion zones, I live in the Blue Mountains - which is enveloped by a world heritage listed national park - where the integrity of water sources is critical to the sustainable health of the general environment. I therefore urge any further review of the SEPP with respect to coal seam gas exploration to acknowledge and protect the unique environment of national parks.

Chris McGillion

School of Communication & Creative Industries

Charles Sturt University

30 Hill St.,

Wentworth Falls

[cid:csu-logo366b.bmp]<<http://www.csu.edu.au/>>

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srlup - CSG Exclusion Zones

From: "Wendy" <wenste2@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 7:25 AM
Subject: CSG Exclusion Zones
Attachments: Fw: I researched some information you gave me from yesterday meeting at Lismore and I still have grave concerns.

The Director of Strategic Regional Policy

I have attached my previous emails to Planning in regard to finding out if properties like ours that are dedicated to the environment will be exempt from mining in general and with this issue specifically CSG exploration and/or extraction.

As a 270 plus acre property owner we are members of Landcare, Land for Wildlife, Friends of the Koala and Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers. We have spent hundreds of hours planting trees trying to stabilise the land from previous incorrect land management, fenced the creek and trying to vegetate it even though in the time we have had here we have seen many many floods that continually cause riparian damage that we continually repair. We have had about 6 floods since the start of this year alone. The cost of the work we do here has been at our own cost except for one only grant from Landcare and that was to replace the fence along the creek after we had replaced it because of flooding about 3 times before at our own cost.

We have done wildlife release programs with the Wildlife Carers group and we have koalas on our property.

Government Departments ask us continually to care for the land and we have obliged. We have tried and still trying to undo previous poor land management practices and repair the previous damage.

My question to the Planning Department in the past is to ask how can properties like ours (and there are many like ours) be damaged and all the work we do be destroyed by mining/csg companies.

I request that these properties be understood and appreciated for the benefits the properties provide to the greater community, caring for country and in the bigger picture the health of the planet in regard to climate change, clean water, providing clean air (oxygen) for others to breathe and trying to bring balance back to vital eco systems. Our property has adjoining and nearby properties all trying to achieve the same outcomes as ourselves.

I am requesting that properties that are dedicated to the environment like ours be protected and therefore excluded from mining/petroleum/csg extraction/mining.

Steve and Wendy Sibley
127 Bolziccos Road
KYOGL. 2474 NSW
02 66 33 7027

sr lup - Fw: I researched some information you gave me from yesterday meeting at Lismore and I still have grave concerns.

From: "Wendy" <wenste2@bigpond.com>
To: <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 3/1/2013 12:37 PM
Subject: Fw: I researched some information you gave me from yesterday meeting at Lismore and I still have grave concerns.

Dear Mr Hazzard....below is an email I sent to you after that rather rowdy meeting at Lismore re CSG Industry. My below email is a genuine enquiry. The reply I received is also below and tells me nothing and there is no content in the email to reassure me that I would get any answers.

I do have questions that I cannot seem to get any answers to from you or your department about what happens to our land that is dedicated to the environment if ever we are approached by csg industry. I can imagine that you are receiving many emails about this industry and I can understand delays in replying specifically to me, however we have put a lot of work into trying to restore this property so that our families footprint on the planet is accounted for. Our land is not strategic agricultural land however we believe that the restoration work we do is vital for the human, animal and plant populations and water quality. There are many other properties like ours.

Are there any reassurances that land like ours will be protected from csg industry and mining in general.

It is very frustrating when there are no genuine replies from you or your office.

Wendy Sibley
 Kyogle
 66 33 7027

Thank you for your email.

The Minister appreciates your contacting him regarding this matter.

Please be assured that your correspondence has been referred to the appropriate staff member for all necessary action.

Yours sincerely,

Office of the Minister for Planning & Infrastructure
Minister assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

Email: office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au

Tel: 02 9228 5258

Fax: 02 9228 5721



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From: [Wendy](#)
Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2012 10:23 AM
To: office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au
Subject: I researched some information you gave me from yesterday meeting at Lismore and I still have grave concerns.

Dear Mr Hazzard...thank you for at least trying to get out answers to questions from yesterday gathering in Lismore. I did get to ask a question and I have taken time this morning to research your answer in the hope of alleviating my fears around the csg industry and the excessive mining that seems to be happening.

I preambled my question with something along the lines of: how we have a 280 acre property and it is under the Land for Wildlife Project. Whilst there is still much to do on our property as we bought it as a run down property we have managed to plant many trees and other vegetation, have brought the health of the creek back and have spend hundreds of hours and thousand of dollars to do this. We do not earn an income from this property. Our income comes from off property and much of that income is used to rehabilitate the property. In our own small way we hope we are contributing towards the healing of the planet from so much destruction done to it by humans.

My understanding is that the mining companies do have the right to come onto my property(even if I object and say "no" I can be taken to court for that access to be gained if they really want what is under the surface of my land and I do not have the money to fight a mining company so in the bigger picture I see that they will get the access they want) and if they do and mine/extract for csg or minerals my property will loose value and I know I could not live there any longer and will have to move. However who will buy my property with wells on it or a mine? Not that I want that to happen in the first place.

My question yesterday was asking for help in understanding how my property can be destroyed so China could have cheap energy.

Your answer was that I could take the matter to the Land and Environment Court and I said we would not have the money to do that. Your next answer was about the new Land and Water Commissioner. That gave me hope.

However this morning on researching the role of the Commissioner I can only find words about Strategic Agricultural Land being provided with advice. I also re read the media release by Mr Stoner on the 23 June 2012 and it states that a working group of farmers irrigators, cotton growers and the csg industry will be develop agreements that will be overseen by the Commissioner.

I cannot see anything that gives me hope about protection of properties like ours that are dedicated to the environment or that landowners like us will be represented in the working group.

In the past, I took encouragement from Government departments that urged land owners to do the type of work we have done. How can one hand of the government give this encouragement and at times funding to protect the environment and another hand of the government allow all that environmental work to be taken away.

I feel that there is something really wrong here. There are many properties like ours that are dedicated to the environment that appear to me will not be protected. I do feel this needs to be addressed.

I do hope you are able to reply.

Wendy Sibley
Bolziccos Road
Kyogle. 2474
66 33 7027

I

srlup - csg

From: "Shan Zauchenberger" <ezauchen@optusnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 9:21 AM
Subject: csg

Surely the only important amendment that has to be No. 1 Priority, is to absolutely secure the quality of Drinking Water not just for humans but the wild life as well.

Yours sincerely, Shan Zauchenberger

Mark Palmer BLandMgmt (Ecol Ag)
mpalmer58@gmail.com
459 Blade Rd Stony Chute NSW
09/04/2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy

Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Submission re the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

I am a resident of the Northern Rivers region of NSW. I have experience and qualifications in Ecology and Agriculture. I appreciate the opportunity to make submissions on the proposed policy.

I believe that the proposed exclusion zones are grossly inadequate to ensure the integrity, quality of life and sustainability of agricultural land and smaller rural communities. I think that water catchments utilised for drinking water supply and or high value agriculture need to have exclusion zones in place as well. I am also concerned that areas of high conservation value are excluded from the proposed exclusion zones.

I also think that the SEPP should explicitly permit local governments (city and shire councils) to be able to determine increases to the extent of the exclusion zones as laid down in the SEPP, within their own Local Government Areas.

I also hold that the opt out clause that permits local councils to reduce or nullify the exclusion zones as determined by the SEPP are a threat to open and transparent regulation of the Coal Seam Gas industry and should be removed.

I also would like the proposed amendment to incorporate a monitoring and compliance regime that ensures that fugitive emissions as well as aquifer disruption or contamination do not impact areas excised by this policy. This would need a core suite of baseline studies prior to any Coal Seam Gas development or approvals.

I would also like the proposed amendments to the SEPP to be broadened to include all other forms of unconventional gas production.

Mark Palmer

mpalmer58@gmail.com

srlup - comment on NSW Govt's proposed CSG exclusion zones

From: Annette Ruzicka <aruzicka@bushheritage.org.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 1:39 PM
Subject: comment on NSW Govt's proposed CSG exclusion zones

I oppose CSG drilling in Australia, but, with regards to the proposed amendments:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards,
Annette Ruzicka

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Submission regarding the Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

While I welcome the amendments to the CSG exclusion zone, I feel they do not go far enough. I urge the government to consider the following in making changes to the current planning policy.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation

Many Australians are feeling seriously disillusioned and let down by their government. It is this Government's duty and responsibility to use the Cautionary Principle in relation to CSG projects.

Yours sincerely

Gabrielle Mogck

Rosebank

From: liz silverstone gmail 2 <liz4silver@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 8:12 am
Subject: Subject: SEPP (mining, petroleum production and extractive industries)

To the Director Strategic Planning Regional Policy.

In line with the increasing evidence of the long-term dangers and risks associated with coal mining and coal seam gas extraction, our fresh water and our agricultural land should be given absolute and total protection and no extractive industries should be permitted under any circumstances. Degradation of these areas should be prohibited. Coal mining should be included in the proposed amendments.

Councils should not be allowed the right to veto as proposed in the SEPP amendments.

Councils should be allowed to list new prohibited areas.

Sensitive environmental land and communities should also be protected.

Those projects that have been approved but not yet satisfied their conditions of approval should be subject to the amendments.

Liz Silverstone.

srlup - Objections to CSG in NSW

From: Garry Barbuto <garrybarbuto@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 2:09 PM
Subject: Objections to CSG in NSW

Hi,

My name is Garry Barbuto and I am a teacher in Renewable Energy and Sustainability at TAFE. I have taught in this area for over 7 years. I am a professional Electrical Engineer with post graduate qualifications in Renewable Energy. I wish to make a submission to the SEEP amendments as outlined below.

The experience overseas, especially in the USA should demonstrate that CSG IS JUST NOT SAFE AT ANY LEVEL. We are being lied to by the energy companies that CSG is "needed" to ensure our gas supply. This is simply not true. Australia has plenty of natural gas for our domestic consumption from the off-shore supplies. The CSG is for export to MAKE EVEN MORE MONEY FOR THE ENERGY COMPANIES. It is a case of short term gain for the companies at the expense of long term degradation of our soil, water air and the health of current and future generations. The NSW Govt has to stand up to this selfish grab for profit at the expense of the future of millions of Australians. I am totally opposed to ANY CSG activities. However I wish to submit the following suggestions for amendments to the SEPP.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards
 Garry

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srlup - NSW Govt's proposed CSG exclusion zones submission

From: Carla <poppinlockin@yahoo.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 10:29 PM
Subject: NSW Govt's proposed CSG exclusion zones submission

I am emailing about CSG and the exclusion zones. From what i have seen/read/experienced this is dancing around the issue that CSG is wrong. I don't care where or how it finds its way to residential /farming areas and fracking is only part of the reason. I dead against it and will keep fighting it.

Carolyn Ienna

NSW

srlup - COAL SEAM GAS MINING

From: "Birgit Graefner" <birgit.graefner@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 9:32 PM
Subject: COAL SEAM GAS MINING

Birgit Graefner
 18 Pollard Close
 HOLGATE
 NSW 2250

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Holgate and have watched the debate around CSG and other mining activities very closely over the last 5 years.
 And right now I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

The scenario is almost unreal : all environmental regulations and protections were taken away.
 Companies were given the free for all.
 And now ordinary citizens have to fight for THEIR MOST BASIC RIGHTS !

Which are FRESH WATER< CLEAN AIR< UNSPOILT FOOD PRODUCTION AREAS . Or to summarize it : A FUTURE WORTH LIVING .

Australia is - at least today - one of the very few countries on this globe that can feed its own population .

We don't NEED to import food.

Do you realize how precious this is?

DO YOU REALLY REALIZE HOW PRECIOUS THIS IS?

I am tempted to ask this question a third time, since I don't believe that this message ever got through to anybody in the decision making groups.

WE NEED TO APPRECIATE OUR CURRENT STATUS QUO AND FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT .
 IT IS UNDER ENOUGH STRESS ALREADY.

EVEN THE THOUGHT OF ALLOWING THE USE OF FRACKING RIGHT ABOVE AND INTO OUR UNIQUE AQUIFYER IS ABSURD.
 ABSOLUTELY ABSURD.
 THE DAMAGE THAT WAS ALREADY DONE TO VAST COUNTRYSIDES IN THE USA IS IRREVERSIBLE.

LET ME SPELL IT :

I R R E V E R S I B L E

THIS IS NOT EVEN AN OPEN ENDED EXPERIMENT.

We can see the DEVASTATING RESULTS ALREADY HERE !!!! The Condamine river is bubbling gases....

Would you like to drink it?

You know – I cannot believe that I even have to write such a letter.

NSW cities have an exclusion zone of 2 km. THAT IS LAUGHABLE – THE DAMAGE DONE IN THE CRUST OF OUR EARTH.

WE ARE GOING TO POLLUTE OUR WATER.

2km or 20 km – that really doesn't matter. The water table is UNDERGROUND. (I thought I need to point this out...)

Smaller villages are treated like cannon fodder – they don't need any protection. (Who on earth could do that to our country folk ??????????)

Horse breeding areas on the other hand – they need to be protected. Am I right? Horses are pulling our cars and are needed. Or why should they be so precious? Could it be that their OWNERS are precious???? (I hope you get the irony in this...)

No matter what sort of regulations you will try to come up with. Even IF (capital letters, please , note) those regulations would we followed – THEY ONLY ATTEMPT TO REGULATE THE DAMAGE THAT IS DONE : keep the toxic water (which isn't deserving the name water any more – it is soooo toxic) in large ponds.

Well – they did it and these ponds already leaked.....

For havens sake. STOP IT.

STOP DESTROYING THE VERY FOUNDATION OF OUR EXISTENCE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

WE ALL BUY FOOD IN THE SHOPS>

BUT IT IS GROWN ON THE LAND> ON LAND THAT NEEDS TLC.

NOT CSG.

Regards

B.Graefner

5. Sign your name at the bottom of the letter

Yours sincerely,

Your Signature

Your Name

From: patricia white <pjw-patjohnw@bigpond.com>
To: <casinogag@googlegroups.com>
CC: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 9:54 pm
Subject: Re: Submission: Mining State Environmental Planning Policy to implement CSG exclusion zones

Well said indeed, Eric.
best regards,
Patricia

On 09/04/2013, at 4:00 PM, Eric van Beurden wrote:

> Attention: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

>

> Many in my community of Richmond Valley are deeply troubled by the inadequacy of the proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy to implement CSG exclusion zones. These amendments have purportedly been designed to protect people and key industries from the increasingly-evident damaging effects of the industry, but they are at best tokenistic and, if implemented, would do little if anything to protect us.

>

> While we applaud the long-overdue recognition by this Government that living within 2 kilometers of gas mining can have damaging effects on people and on primary production, how can you expect the people of NSW to take it as anything other than a cheap political stunt when only certain people and only certain industries are to be protected?

>

> Many residents such as my family and neighbours here in Tatham NSW, live in clusters of small rural residential blocks that, whilst identical to larger villages with respect to any ill effects of gas mining, would find no protection under this poorly conceived policy, simply because in our local government's LEP the land is still zoned RU1, Primary Production. Nor would any others who live on larger Primary Production properties. If the amendments are instigated as planned, this arbitrary discrimination between citizens that do and do not justify protection would constitute gross and reprehensible negligence on your part.

>

> Furthermore, how on earth can you justify protection of the non-essential wine and equine industries, when the vast array of other primary industries that are our long-term food security remains unprotected? This is farcical!

>

> When will you realise that the broader community has had enough of this industry and the 'protection policies' that prop it up? Last weeks media poll indicated that three quarters of your electorate do not want unconventional gas mining. We have fought long and hard here on the North Coast to ensure that this disastrous industry does not get a foothold. Most of us don't normally get involved in such actions but we stand firm and will not be distracted by this or any other half-baked policy.

>

> Giving local government the responsibility of who will and wont be protected, is another transparent attempt to shift responsibility. Previously they have been given no power to protect us from any effects of gas mining, so why the rush to give them this responsibility now? This is clearly a poison chalice, one that will cause even further division, where rifts between communities and their councils need to be healed rather than exacerbated.

>

> Its time to move on from your band-aid policy approach to calming this furore. The blatant, in-built exemptions of previous attempts, earned them wide-spread ridicule within the electorate. Who would take a Gateway Policy seriously after the legislative 'gate' was removed, or an Aquifer Protection Policy when sunk with a gigantic 'leak' by virtue of the gas industry exemption? Likewise, who will now take this 'Exclusions Policy seriously when it is so utterly 'exclusive'? Your voters are over being treated like idiots. They are over you framing them as 'misguided radicals' and over being harassed by their own police force charged with guarding an industry that rides roughshod over them and their land.

>

> Surely its time for genuine and responsible action to avert this impending gas disaster. You were

voted in to enact the will of the people. You were trusted as intelligent caretakers of our future. Please reflect on the immense long-term damage that unconventional gas mining will perpetrate on your own wonderful nation. If you do want us to take this policy seriously then extend the exclusion zone to 5 kilometers from any residence, primary producing land or underground aquifer...and if that means no unconventional gas industry then so be it. Whats the use of a short term budget surplus if its at the expense of our very future?

>

> Dr Eric van Beurden

> 10 Tatham Ellangowan Road,

> Tatham, NSW 2471

> 0427631457

>

>

>

>

> --

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DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY
(MINING, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES)
(COAL SEAM GAS EXCLUSION ZONES) 2013 SUBMISSION

Justin Smyrk
1/2 Raith Crt
St Kilda East VIC 3183
06.03.13

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a resident of Melbourne, Australia, I'd like to submit my views of the proposed policy. I'm writing to you in great concern of CSG development in NSW and increasingly around Australia, that is ruining the long term futures of many Australians for the short term economic benefit of a few.

I applaud the recent exclusion zone of 2kms from large residential areas but there are a number of important issues that need to be addressed to put in place science based policy that is good for the whole community.

First and foremost baseline data collection is vital and needed before any wells are begun. Underground water aquifer quality, levels and interactivity data in the area; air quality and natural gas emissions data; flora and fauna species and numbers and conservation value data, would provide a point at which to set environmental regulations and policy. In particular I'm very concerned with underground aquifer water levels and quality. Since clean, fresh water is vital for the our ongoing way of life, any contamination and premature lowering would be disastrous.

Exclusion zones for CSG wells should be put in place across NSW for all high conservation ares, all national and state parks, all water catchment areas, all residential areas (no matter the size of the community). Also land owners and nearby residents of proposed and existing CSG wells can have the ability to object and stop (quite reasonable considering such laws now exist for wind turbines in NSW) CSG developments.

Regulations to monitor and test CSG well sites for fugitive emissions and water pollution issues should be put in place and development of standards for air, water and noise quality to be developed specifically for CSG operations.

Given the short term economic benefit of the wells compared to the long term destruction that may occur to the land, to water level quality and to farmers and agriculture this would need to be paramount to ensure rigorous environmental safeguards.

Yours sincerely,
Justin Smyrk

Norman Sage
736 Waukivory Rd
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422

10 April 2013

The Director
Strategic Regional Policy
Dept of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Madam/Sir

I am a resident of Gloucester which has had the first stage of a Coal Seam Gas (CSG) development approved and will soon have the Environment Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rocky Hill open cut coal mine put on display. I welcome this opportunity to comment on the Government's proposed amendment to the relevant State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) on CSG.

The proposed amendment to the mining SEPP.

It is my understanding that the Government intends strengthening its Strategic Regional Land Use Policy (SRLUP) with an amendment which includes creating a 2 kilometre exclusion zone for CSG around residential areas. While this is a most welcome amendment and although equine and viticulture areas are protected under the proposed amendment, there appears to still be no protection for our water catchments, smaller local communities, scenic and conservation areas and productive farming lands.

There is also no protection for the residents of Gloucester from the already approved AGL gas field on the outskirts of Gloucester. This development, although approved in the dying moments of the previous Government, is highly contentious with many approval irregularities and should rightly be challenged.

Strengthening the SEPP draft amendment.

There has been a determined call from New South Wales residents for increased protection of all these assets, not only from the high-risk CSG industry but also from other mining and destructive extraction industries.

I encourage and support the Government to strengthen the mining SEPP with amendments that will fully protect small communities as well as large, will protect scenic and conservation areas and protect productive farming lands. I must also insist that mining, including CSG and other unconventional gas sources, be excluded from water catchment areas as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: **"The next Liberal-National Government . . . will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area . . . No ifs, no buts, a guarantee"**.

Norman Sage.

Wendy & Hans Stroeve
40 Roxburgh Dr.
Kelso NSW 2795

12 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy. We appreciate that the government has responded to widespread public concern about the development of coal seam gas by reviewing this legislation and we hope that these issues will inform any amendment to the planning regulations. We are residents of Bathurst, NSW and have followed the development of coal seam gas mining and the issues arising from it for some years. Our local media has just recently broadcast information about an application made to the NSW Government Division of Resources and Energy that may have profound impact on our region. We make this submission to voice our profound concerns about coal seam gas mining proceeding in NSW without thorough local baseline studies, without a considered and lengthy research process and without adequate assurance of environmental protection, safety and respect for landholder rights and wishes.

Firstly, we believe it is not sufficient to create a buffer zone only for residential and industry areas. As we understand it, this leaves rural properties outside the regional centres without such protection. Many in our region have chosen a rural lifestyle and many live on farm and farm-like properties in areas that are beyond residential zones, but nonetheless constitute communities. We believe they have a right to have the tranquillity and scenic nature of their environment protected from mining infrastructure, vehicular traffic, noise and visual pollution. Confining buffers to areas that are zoned as residential leaves many such small rural communities exposed to what appears from our research to be a totally unacceptable and transformative level of intrusion by mining companies.

Secondly, we believe that the interests of the residents of NSW are best served by making sure there is no haste in the development of this resource. Australia has adequate gas resources to allow for a lengthy research process to occur. Development in Queensland and elsewhere in NSW demonstrates repeatedly that mining has proceeded with insufficient research. All areas where such controversial mining techniques as 'fracking' may occur should be the subject of detailed baseline studies, so that it is indeed possible to assess the impact of CSG mining on the health of people and the environment. No mining should proceed until exhaustive health and environmental impact studies have been done.

Thirdly, we believe that the most pressing environmental issue for this country into the future is water scarcity. This makes it imperative that processes that may impact on water catchment, availability of water for agriculture or water quality be approached very conservatively. We simply do not believe there is sufficient evidence that this form of mining can be performed without excessive water use, real danger of pollutants entering the water table upon which we all rely and with any guarantee that gas will not seep into water supplies. We strongly advocate that drinking water catchments are fully protected by exclusion zones and that all unconventional gas mining is banned on prime agricultural land.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy and Hans Stroeve

The block contains two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'W Stroeve' written in a cursive, flowing style. The signature on the right is 'H Stroeve', also in cursive, with a more pronounced loop at the end.

srlup - Submission to the CSG SEPP

From: "Philip Andersen " <philipandersen@iprimus.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 4:55 PM
Subject: Submission to the CSG SEPP
CC: <go_river_@hotmail.com>

We urge the Mining SEPP amendments to very specifically exclude any exploration or production related to CSG from drinking water catchments particularly those on the Woronora Plateau, south of Sydney. These catchments known as the Metropolitan catchments, (Woronora, Cataract, Codeaux, Avon and Nepean) should be exempt from any mining and gas activities, as should the Warragamba catchment further west.

Furthermore we also argue prime food producing land, and the land underlain by the Great Artesian Basin, should also be exempted for long term food and water security reasons.

P&S Andersen
14 Marine Drive
Oatley.

srlup - Submission on Draft Mining SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

From: Cira Robinson <cirarobinson@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 4:57 PM
Subject: Submission on Draft Mining SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

Submission on Draft Mining SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

After reading the draft SEPP Amendment, I'd like to say the following:

I) I wish to make a *strong* objection to the proposed Clause 9A, Parts 2 and 3.

These parts should *be removed from the amendment* for the following reasons

It doesn't make sense in this case to leave the 2Km exclusion to Councils because if the State Gov. says 2km CSG exclusion, it should be universal and absolute. The law can't discriminate and say, it's OK for some people but the Council say that it's not OK for another group of people.

If the last word is left to the Councils, it's open to financial corruption and political games

Premier O'Farrell said emphatically in his media release of 19/02/13 "We have declared country towns and suburbs across NSW no go zones for CSG activities" and again "a two km exclusion zone will be imposed around residential zones to prevent new CSG explorations, assessment and production activities both surface and ground". So, now it's time for the Premier and his team to keep their promise and meet people's expectations

ii) Zone R6 Scenic Protection should also be included in Schedule 3, for the following reason

I think since the State Gov. has declared CSG activities "State Significant" (which I disagree with) and they make the laws, so they may as well take this opportunity and include R6 in Schedule 3.

If the Coalition really believes that councils should have local control, then Zone 6 Scenic Protection Zones should be included in the amended SEPP along with Zone RU5 in Schedule 3, as this has been the Council's wish since 1973.

Name: Cira Robinson

6 Warrumbungle Place
 Bow Bowling 2566
 12 /04/2013

srlup - Submission -Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: Judith MacDonald <judymac@aapt.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 5:06 PM
Subject: Submission -Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

RE- Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Dear Minister,

I am compelled to provide feedback and the above SEPP amendment.

This CSG 2 kilometre prohibition should be extended to all rural residential areas. Although excluding CSG mining from a 2 kilometre radius around urban residential areas is a good step, it fails to protect residential homes in rural residential areas. I live in a rural area called The Pocket, near Mullumbimby, which has over 200 homes and around 700 residents diversely scattered over a wide rural area. If CSG is dangerous to the health of people living in urban residential areas near a CSG extraction area (I believe the reason that this SEPP amendment has been made) why should the government allow CSG extraction in a rural residential area as it would do similar harm to the people who live there?

I have an 11 acre property and source my water from spring fed watercourses. Many rural properties also rely on bores to supplement catchment which is never dependable during drought periods. Should a CSG extraction happen on or near my property, or any rural residential property using spring water or bores could possibly have their water contaminated.

Furthermore, my area, as well as most rural areas contains valuable farmlands for growing fruits and vegetables, or for raising stock. There are many cattle farmers on my road. If water supplies for these produce or cattle farmers becomes contaminated with the chemicals used in CSG mining, this would be a disaster for the future of our society which depends on agriculture for survival. We need to protect these valuable farmlands from potential pollution so this SEPP amendment of a 2 kilometre exclusion zone should be extended to include these farmlands.

Finally, my area, as well as many other rural areas contain sensitive environmental areas, water catchments and wildlife corridors. The Brunswick River originates in Main Arm and this is the one of the principal waterways in the Northern Rivers. Most of the land that is not zoned rural, much of which contains prime farmlands, are environmental protection areas, and is covered with forests and contains large wildlife corridors, one of which is on my property. If CSG mining is allowed in these rural areas, it will have a great negative impact on the waterways all over the shire and affect the health of wildlife, who drink from the rivers and streams in the area. As such the SEPP amendment's 2 kilometre exclusion should be extended to cover important water catchment, environmental protection zones, and wildlife areas.

Also as the Brunswick River flows down through the towns of Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads, residents in these urban residential areas who use the river recreationally to boat, swim, fish, kayak etc could soon find that the Brunswick River has been polluted with CSG chemicals used in the extraction process. This could be a major health risk in the future.

So I please ask you to extend the CSG 2 kilometre exclusion zone to rural residential areas such as Main Arm, that are located close to urban centres such as Mullumbimby. If this is not done the health and welfare of many thousands of people living in these areas will likely be negatively impacted.

I also believe that the SEPP amendment be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including tight gas and shale gas.

Thank you so much for consideration of my input.

Judy D'abbs
 857 The Pocket Road
 The Upper Pocket, NSW 2483

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: "Tina Robertson" <tinar@lis.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 6:05 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

As a horticulturist I would argue that all food producing land should be protected from CSG mining, not only equine and viticulture clusters. There should be a 2 km exclusion zone surrounding these food producing areas. This 2 km exclusion should also apply to all residential dwellings.

Sue Cudmore
"Eulabah"
624 Weblands Road
Quirindi NSW 2343

12th April, 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zone 2013

As an Australian farmer and a resident of the Liverpool Plains I would like to state my strong objection to the amendment of a two kilometer coal seam gas exclusion zone from residential areas of 1000 plus people and "critical industry clusters". The ability of local council to override this exclusion makes the amendment totally inadequate.

This amendment shows the diminished value smaller communities and rural populations hold in the eyes of Barry O'Farrell's government. Once again they would marginalize those whose livelihood relies on the recourses that stand to be damaged by any adverse outcomes caused by coal seam gas extraction. The amendment does not address the real issues or protect those most at risk from damage caused by such coal seam gas extraction.

If there is a potential threat to residential areas of 1000 plus people and "critical industry clusters" there is obviously still a threat to our rural land. Due to previous unmitigated environmental damage to areas where gas extraction has taken place I believe that there should be a moratorium on coal seam gas extraction until science validates that there will be no adverse effects to our water, environment and to our livelihoods. However, if this amendment is to proceed then agricultural land and farming enterprises must be included in the exclusion zone.

Yours faithfully,

Sue Cudmore



PCU043425

Attention: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

Many in my community of Richmond Valley are deeply troubled by the inadequacy of the proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy to implement CSG exclusion zones. These amendments have purportedly been designed to protect people and key industries from the increasingly evident damaging effects of the industry, but they are at best tokenistic and, if implemented, would do little if anything to protect us.

While we applaud the long-overdue recognition by this Government that living within 2 kilometers of gas mining can have damaging effects on people, surely all residents of NSW deserve the same consideration, not just those living in groups of 1000 or more. If the amendments are instigated as planned, this arbitrary discrimination between citizens that do and do not justify protection would constitute gross and reprehensible negligence on your part.

Similarly, the provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas, not just the wine and equine industries. How can you expect the people of NSW to take it as anything other than a cheap political stunt when only certain people and only certain industries are to be protected?

Giving local government the responsibility of who will and won't be protected, is another transparent attempt to shift responsibility. The right to veto for local councils should be removed as it leaves a giant loophole for the CSG industry to exert undue influence over council approvals despite widespread community opposition. It will also deepen rifts in communities that are already polarized on this issue.

Furthermore, the SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

The SEPP amendments should also apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Surely its time for genuine and responsible action to avert the impending environmental disaster that will be precipitated by the expansion of the unconventional gas mining industry. You were voted in to enact the will of the people. You were trusted as intelligent caretakers of our future. Please reflect on the immense long-term damage that unconventional gas mining will perpetrate on your own wonderful nation.





PCU043426

662 Bowman River Road
Via Gloucester
NSW 2422

The Director Strategic
Regional Policy
Dept of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

9th April 2013

Department of Planning
Received
12 APR 2013
Scanning Room

Dear Sir,

I am a resident of the Gloucester district and I am taking the opportunity ^{to comment} on the Coal Seam Gas industry.

Although I am glad amendments have been brought in to prevent CSG wells from being drilled close to residential areas this does not apply to our area here because projects were already past the approval stage, regardless of opposition from Gloucester residents.

We need a moratorium on this mining until appropriate health, water and geological tests have been carried out.

It is also very important for local councils to have a say in declaring areas exempt for CSG.

Yours faithfully

Griselda Browne

Mrs Griselda Browne
662 Bowman River Road
BOWMAN NSW 2422

Proud Supporter

TARONGA

For the Wild

(GM BROWNE)

srlup - Mining SEPP

From: graham bond <gboznz@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 8:31 PM
Subject: Mining SEPP

Dear Sirs,

Re the draft proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones, I list below five points which I believe should be considered:-

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Bond
42 Alison Avenue, Lennox Head NSW 2478, Australia. Ph. 0439876103

Margaret Buckham

PO Box 815, KINGSWOOD NSW 2747 • Phone: 0247390110
E-Mail: drgas001@aol.com



Date: 6/4/13

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am a resident of the Blue Mountains and a doctor working in the Penrith Valley. I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy in regards to Coal Seam Gas exploration (CSG) with a plan to amend the mining SEPP to set controls and a buffer zone within two kilometres of residential areas.

I congratulate Mr O'Farrell on this step in the right direction to protect the health and well being of his constituents. But, the change does not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas and high conservation value land.

I am concerned that the proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage. There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. Allowing CSG development to occur anywhere in this state prior to further confirmation of University of Queensland studies, is extremely risky. The SEPP does not take into account any impacts of CSG mining operations within water catchment areas, including in Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Special Areas. The government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted.

I am also concerned about Clause 9A; I feel there may be a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.

I would like to see the Exclusion zones including protections for high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas, critical farmland and travelling stock routes. The amendment also fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction.

Sincerely,

Dr Margaret Buckham MBBS, FANZCA



2/38 GRAHAME STREET
BLAXLAND NSW 2774
8th April 2013



The Director
Regional Security Policy
Dept of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001
Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission on Draft Amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy
(Mining, Petroleum Production and Extraction Industries)(Coal Seam Gas Exclusion
Zones) 2013.

I wish to comment on the proposed policy.

I am one of a large and growing group of NSW residents who are opposed to the expansion of the Coal Seam Gas industry and the further growth of coal mining in this State.

The current proposal to declare a two kilometre buffer zone around residential areas and "critical industry clusters" is inadequate. The adverse environmental and social effects of CSG mining are proven in the USA and Egypt, and are becoming serious in Queensland. We should not be facing the probability of having our water supplies jeopardised, priceless agricultural land damaged and people's lives disrupted for short term profit.

The proposed policy should include at least the following amendments.

1. NO CSG activity within or near any water catchment areas or in areas where damage to aquifers could occur.
2. NO CSG activity on or near productive agricultural or grazing land, National Parks and conservation areas.
3. NO CSG activity IN ANY AREA until possible adverse health effects on residents have been studied and recognised.
4. NO CSG activity IN ANY AREA until the issue of disposal of polluted waste water is properly addressed.
5. The removal of Clause 9A (sub-clauses 2 & 3) relating to Local Government "opt out" options.

I recommend as required reading for those considering these issues the book "Rich Land, Wasteland " by Sharyn Munro, 2012 Macmillan Australia, for the real story of the effects these matters are having on the people of Australia.

Yours Faithfully,
DEREK FINTER mob. 0431 606 203, e mail dfinter@aapt.net.au

Jeroen van Kernebeek
94 St Johns Rd
Glebe NSW 2037

7 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Submission on the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining,
Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013**

As a NSW resident, I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

It is a welcome step that the NSW government is planning to create buffer zones to stop the development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters. However, the proposal is nowhere near enough to satisfy the strong and community-wide calls for proper protection from the pollution of the high-risk Coal Seam Gas industry. NSW citizens are rightly concerned about the potentially very severe environmental and health impacts of the Coal Seam Gas industry. It is evident that additional measures are required to protect our key water supplies – such as the Sydney Catchment Authority Special Areas -, conservation areas and agricultural land.

In my view, the proposed amendments still leave the majority of our state open to CSG development and its environmental risks. It is a must that the policy will also apply to projects that have already gone through the approval stage, including the gas field planned for the Pillage Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. These potential health effects should first be established and measures should be enforced that will mitigate these effects.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee".

I object to the 'opt out' clause in the amendment that provides the councils the power to override the 2km exclusion zone. This clause could easily be exploited and lead to negative environmental outcomes.

I further suggest that SEPP amendment should also apply to tight gas, and not only to gas from coal beds. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

I support a total moratorium on CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been undertaken, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups. A similar study is required for the environmental impacts of CSG.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

Yours sincerely,

Jeroen van Kernebeek

srlup - Draft Amendment

From: "Fiona Forrest" <spring_3@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 7/04/2013 5:17 PM
Subject: Draft Amendment

I'm writing in response to the proposed Draft Amendment To the State Environment Planning Policy 2013 (SEPP)

As a resident of the Blue Mountains I'm concerned that these proposed new guidelines do not mean much. We are surrounded by National Parks, all at a greater distance than two km. The area is a World Heritage site and therefore it would be sacrilege to mine anywhere in this area. The future of tourism in N.S.W. depends on keeping the area pristine and a draw card for overseas travellers.

Likewise in other National Parks, water catchment areas, and productive agricultural land. What is more important than maintaining the health of these lands for the production of good quality water, air and farming.

What is money worth if you don't have these basic necessities. You as our elected members, should take some responsibility to protect these vital commodities.

I would like to see greater controls put on these large companies, and greater restrictions put in place

Queensland is a example where Nature is out of balance, and the cost to the people and the State is extreme. It doesn't pay in the end, and who wants the outcome.

I don't.

Yours

Fiona Forrest, 52 Fitzgerald Street, Katoomba. 2780. spring_3@bigpond.com

srlup - Amendments to Mining SEPP - CSG exclusion zones

From: Stephanie Munro <munro_s777@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 3:23 PM
Subject: Amendments to Mining SEPP - CSG exclusion zones

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for exhibiting the draft amendments to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013. I'd like to say these changes are great and thank you for taking action to strengthen the regulation of the CSG in NSW.

I've reviewed some feedback through social media and I agree with the feedback outlined below:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Please take this feedback in to account when finalising the SEPP.

Warm regards,
Stephanie

srlup - The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

From: Viki Stasionis <viki@blondeink.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 9:21 AM
Subject: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Oi you political greedy morons!
START LISTENING TO US THE PEOPLE!

WE DON'T WANT YOUR COAL SEAM GAS PROJECTS AND WE DON'T WANT YOUR ENVOIRONMENTEL
DESTRUCTION:

WHEN YOU GONNA LISTEN TO US THE PEOPLE?????

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

SO STOP IT!!!!!!!!!!

srlup - Strategic Land Use Policy Ammendments

From: Jonathan Stilts <jonathan_stilts@yahoo.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 11:06 PM
Subject: Strategic Land Use Policy Ammendments

To whom it may concern,

These are my suggested ammendments to the strategic land-use policy.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Kind regards,
Jonathan Stilts

Sent from my iPad

srlup - Proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP

From: Barbara THOMAS <barbthomasl@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 4:11 PM
Subject: Proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP

Dear Minister,

Herewith a submission re the above :

Although I welcome the amendments proposed, I believe the amendments do not go far enough. In order to protect the state from this worst affects of mining, we need :

1. Exclusions for all identified water catchments, food producing lands and sensitive environmental areas
2. Amendments to include a 2 km buffer around ALL residential dwellings
3. Amendments to SEPP should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval and have not yet commenced operation
4. The right to veto for councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas
5. Amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas

Only these inclusions will make the Mining SEPP of lasting benefit to our water supplies, food producing entities, important environmental areas and the people of NSW, both present and future generations.

WE NEED TO DEVELOP RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND STOP POLLUTING ONES - WE MUST START NOW and these protections will help meantime.

Thank you

Barbara Thomas
71A Rowlands Creek Rd
UKI NSW 2484

srlup - Gloucester town not included in coal seam gas exclusion

From: Alison Bencke <alisonbencke@hotmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 4:06 PM
Subject: Gloucester town not included in coal seam gas exclusion

Dear Minister,

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW CSG drilling to proceed any further in Gloucester and the Avon Valley

At the very least, please consider retrospectively including Gloucester Township and surrounding villages in the CSG exclusion zones. A quirk of timing should NOT allow the ground water of this beautiful farming town and its fertile river flats to be ruined by coal seam gas.

Moreover the valley's geology is much more complicated than other areas of Australia and for this reason should NOT be drilled at all as water quality can not be assured as it is so unknown what the effects of CSG drilling will be there.

Your faithfully,
Alison

[Alison Bencke](mailto:alisonbencke@hotmail.com)
alisonbencke@hotmail.com

srlup - CSG Exclusions

From: John Jeayes <john.jeayes@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 3:30 PM
Subject: CSG Exclusions

It took ages for the Coalition Government to wake up and for Andrew Stoner to announce a 2km exclusion zone from towns. While Lockthegate are driving for exclusion from prime agricultural land the iconic natural places are being left out in some media releases. For some of us places like the Pilliga, Leards forest and the North Coast E zones are more important.

Please ban CSG and coal exploration in these HCV areas.

Kind regards.

john

--

politics is the art of the possible
environmentalism is the art of the impossible
it just takes a little longer

**srlup - State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries)
Amendment (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013**

From: "Erin Woodward" <ewoodward@stacklaw.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 3:36 PM
Subject: State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Dear Sir / Madam,

I refer to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013, public consultation draft dated 14 March 2013.

I note the prohibition of coal seam gas development in certain exclusion zones as outlined in Clause 9A. I wish to submit that the exclusion zones proposed in the consultation draft be extended to include:-

1. Provision for a 2km buffer zone for residents living on farms and rural properties, and around *all* residential dwellings;
2. Provision for exclusion areas to protect vital food growing lands;
3. Provision for exclusion areas to protect drinking water catchments;
4. Provision for exclusion areas to protect sensitive environmental areas;

I also wish to submit that the policy be extended to include other types of mining, such as coal mining and unconventional gas extraction (e.g. shale gas).

Finally, I submit that the SEPP amendments ought to apply to projects that have already been approved but which have not yet commenced operations nor satisfied their conditions of approval.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,
Erin Woodward

From: Eric van Beurden <eric_van_beurden@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 4:00 PM
Subject: Submission: Mining State Environmental Planning Policy to implement CSG exclusion zones

Attention: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

Many in my community of Richmond Valley are deeply troubled by the inadequacy of the proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy to implement CSG exclusion zones. These amendments have purportedly been designed to protect people and key industries from the increasingly-evident damaging effects of the industry, but they are at best tokenistic and, if implemented, would do little if anything to protect us.

While we applaud the long-overdue recognition by this Government that living within 2 kilometers of gas mining can have damaging effects on people and on primary production, how can you expect the people of NSW to take it as anything other than a cheap political stunt when only certain people and only certain industries are to be protected?

Many residents such as my family and neighbours here in Tatham NSW, live in clusters of small rural residential blocks that, whilst identical to larger villages with respect to any ill effects of gas mining, would find no protection under this poorly conceived policy, simply because in our local government's LEP the land is still zoned RU1, Primary Production. Nor would any others who live on larger Primary Production properties. If the amendments are instigated as planned, this arbitrary discrimination between citizens that do and do not justify protection would constitute gross and reprehensible negligence on your part.

Furthermore, how on earth can you justify protection of the non-essential wine and equine industries, when the vast array of other primary industries that are our long-term food security remains unprotected? This is farcical!

When will you realise that the broader community has had enough of this industry and the 'protection policies' that prop it up? Last weeks media poll indicated that three quarters of your electorate do not want unconventional gas mining. We have fought long and hard here on the North Coast to ensure that this disastrous industry does not get a foothold. Most of us don't normally get involved in such actions but we stand firm and will not be distracted by this or any other half-baked policy.

Giving local government the responsibility of who will and wont be protected, is another transparent attempt to shift responsibility. Previously they have been given no power to protect us from any effects of gas mining, so why the rush to give them this responsibility now? This is clearly a poison chalice, one that will cause even further division, where rifts between communities and their councils need to be healed rather than exacerbated.

Its time to move on from your band-aid policy approach to calming this furore. The blatant, in-built exemptions of previous attempts, earned them wide-spread ridicule within the electorate. Who would take a Gateway Policy seriously after the legislative 'gate' was removed, or an Aquifer Protection Policy when sunk with a gigantic 'leak' by virtue of the gas industry exemption? Likewise, who will now take this 'Exclusions Policy seriously when it is so utterly 'exclusive'? Your voters are over being treated like idiots. They are over you framing them as 'misguided radicals' and over being harassed by their own police force charged with guarding an industry that rides roughshod over them and their land.

Surely its time for genuine and responsible action to avert this impending gas disaster. You were voted in to enact the will of the people. You were trusted as intelligent caretakers of our future. Please reflect on the immense long-term damage that unconventional gas mining will perpetrate on your own wonderful nation. If you do want us to take this policy seriously then extend the exclusion zone to 5 kilometers from any residence, primary producing land or underground aquifer...and if that means no unconventional gas industry then so be it. Whats the use of a short term budget surplus if its at the expense of our very future?

Dr Eric van Beurden
10 Tatham Ellangowan Road,
Tatham, NSW 2471
0427631457

srlup - draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

From: "Raymond Mathiesen" <raymond.mathiesen@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 3:52 PM
Subject: draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

srlup - Has Coalseam GAS Dvlpt.'Push' been aided by the NSW Government, with nil Long-term 'Truly Sustainable'

From: Joe Friend <friendjoe7@gmail.com>

To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Date: 9/04/2013 4:35 PM

Subject: Has Coalseam GAS Dvlpt.'Push' been aided by the NSW Government, with nil Long-term 'Truly Sustainable'

Planning having been considered!

There exists NIL historic evidence that the A Government has properly or professionally 'debated' or publicly-advertised for scientific or 'other submissions' from retired Geol.experts and Environmental Scientists (like myself), through & throughout the past fifteen(15) years

_ a known 'Sustainable TimestamP, which is the proper, professional 'leadUp Time' for the rational community-appraisal of any, is ANY

New technology, especially a new 'breakthrough' method which in all and every voting /still-hole pierced the subsoil-regolith-rock interface zones, and as a result -.FOR.THE FIRST TIME in Human History, the 'ancient MiddleAges taboo' of not-breaking through the Three-metre Burial zone(taboo) is being consistently and repeatedly breached; and the public are not even being given 'proper respect' of the 1970s -when EIS Statements regularly went on public display, & the there were real-ethics to do with the 'Developer:public' interaction process! ...;

Please contact me for more details Or/& a Submission in-full...

Sincerely & Environmentally!

Joe A Friend @ Cootamundra;

0431688918

srlup - Mining State Environmental Planning Policy

From: "Mal Anderson" <malanval@tpg.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 5:05 PM
Subject: Mining State Environmental Planning Policy

Proposed SEPP amendments.

I submit the following points.

1. Any further progress in reforming fossil fuel extraction should include coal as well as all types of gas mining. The recent safeguards don't go nearly far enough to protect the environment, farmlands and wetlands from the known ravages of this destructive practice.
2. The amendments should extend to the 2km buffer to cover ALL residences.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food-producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should apply to all fossil mining projects, immediately.
5. Any pollution to the water table should result in immediate heavy penalties and banning the mining company from further mining of the particular site.

Thank you,

Mal Anderson, 98 Combine St., Coffs Harbour 2450. Ph 02 6651 5565

srlup - NSW CSG Exclusion Zones

From: "maz" <maz_jord@westnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 5:24 PM
Subject: NSW CSG Exclusion Zones

The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001

It is vital that CSG mining, and similar styles of mining, are not conducted in areas where people live, where our food is grown, or near our waterways. The 2km exclusion zone that has been applied to metropolitan areas now needs to be applied to the rest of the state, in areas as mentioned. It is our right to have clean air to breath, clean water to drink, and clean soil to grow our nation's food.

Thank you
Marion Syratt
P O Box 67
BOWRAVILLE NSW 2449

srlup

From: Helene Collard <hmcollard@gmail.com>

To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Date: 9/04/2013 5:47 PM

To the NSW Government,

I would like to provide the following feedback to the recent proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

I would appreciate your due consideration of my comments.

Best regards,

Helene Collard

90 Grennan Rd, Tregear NSW 2480

0405656797

From: Karyne Gough <karyne@naturalshoe.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 5:47 PM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas mining

Dear Panel,

I am writing to request that you immediately halt any proposed coal seam gas mining. The effects of this industry are known to be devastating to the environment particularly the water supply. Areas that have CSG mining now have polluted water bubbling up methane gas. The current research being conducted by Sydney environmental scientists clearly show that fugitive emissions constantly escape into the atmosphere. As shown in the movie Gasland, people in the Tara area of Qld are also suffering dreadful health problems due to CSG mining on their doorstep. It is unconscionable to allow this mining to continue knowing the effects are ruining the environment and people's lives. The fact that the overwhelming majority of people do not want this type of mining mean that it is clearly undemocratic to allow it to continue. Just because the NSW state government thinks it needs the royalty income from CSG mining does not make it necessary to continue with. While quick upfront monies may be handed to desperate governments, the long term consequences will not be worth the initial grab for money. When the water supply gets polluted and unusable, the soil degraded and people go bankrupt because their land is ruined, who is going to grow the food and where? The government will be sued for damages by individual and class actions and will end up paying out more in compensation to individuals than the royalties they extracted from mining companies. And will we end up paying a fortune to desalinate water for agricultural purposes?

Coal Seam Gas mining will have devastating consequences and to proceed with it is an unforgivable act of betrayal on the environment and the people and animals that rely on it for life, including you.

Yours Sincerely,
Karyne Gough

Sent from my iPad

srlup - Submission re draft amendments to Mining SEPP

From: "Philip Spark" <pdspark@activ8.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 6:11 PM
Subject: Submission re draft amendments to Mining SEPP

Dear reader

Submission re; draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

From Philip Spark – North West Ecological Services – 22 Garden Street Tamworth 2340 Ph 67642245 Email pdspark@activ8.net.au

The proposed changes provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters.

However they don't go far enough, they do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow council's to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards
Philip Spark

srlup - Submission: Draft Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)

From: chris brown <e99plant@yahoo.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 6:16 PM
Subject: Submission: Draft Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)

To the Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

I am writing to you regarding the draft Mining SEPP. This draft policy provides some key protections to critically sensitive areas and it is fantastic to see action being taken on the ferociously expanding CSG industry. I acknowledge the great work that has been done on this document, I have however the following points to submit for your consideration.

1. Although the proposed policy provides protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters, it offers no protection to those living on farms, rural properties, water catchment areas, and other food producing areas. The same protection should be extended to these other areas.
2. Amendments should be made to the SEPP to include a 2KM radius around ALL residential dwellings. New data is coming out of current studies which indicates dangerously high levels of fugitive emissions from CSG wells, which in a residential area is a massive threat to public health.
3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
4. Amendments should be made to the SEPP to apply to coal mining and to all forms of gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas, as all extraction methods have their risks.
5. Although the SEPP will be applicable to new gas projects, it is important that the same policy be applied to projects which have already been approved - pending the complete satisfaction of the conditions of approval - but have not yet commenced operation.

I greatly appreciate the action taken regarding this new industry. I am happy that some real actions have been implemented to protect our land and water from irreversible damage. Keep up the good work.

For the next generation,
-Chris Brown

16 corlette st Cooks Hill NSW
2300

srlup - Fracking

From: "Phil & Rebecca Cox" <gumbootgrange@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 6:29 PM
Subject: Fracking

To whom it may concern,

Please consider the following:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Finally, if we don't have farmers, we don't have food. The risks to our food and water supply is too great.

Regards

Rebecca Cox

srlup - CSG mining limits

From: Lynne West <westfiretwirler@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 7:05 PM
Subject: CSG mining limits

7 Cemetery Rd,
Byron Bay,
NSW, 2481
9th April, 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my concern over CSG mining and the effects it will have on the environment, including our precious water resources. This is an activity that most Australians have clearly stated we do not want. We need to be looking for renewable energy sources and with the amount of sunlight we have in Australia, we should be leading the world in solar technology. I am concerned that the government is ignoring the wishes of the Australian people on this issue and I am wondering why.

I know the NSW government has released a draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones. While I am pleased this is happening, it is my belief it doesn't go far enough.

There is nothing in this policy to protect those living on farms and rural properties and it fails to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that you allow council's to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining.

I would like to outline a few changes that I believe should be made to the policy.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet

satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

As well as these above five points, we want exclusion zones extended to protect our water catchments too. Our children and all the generations of children deserve protection from this form of mining which pollutes and offers no benefits for the people living in those towns. It's time to protect regional industry from CSG and coal mining.

I look forward to seeing some changes soon to the insidious way that CSG companies have been allowed to move into this country.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Holian

srlup - Draft SEPP Mining amendment. CSG Exclusion Zones

From: Steve Robinson <treesteve@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 7:23 PM
Subject: Draft SEPP Mining amendment. CSG Exclusion Zones

The draft exclusion zones as currently on exhibition are arbitrary, illogical and unjust. I object to this draft legislation
 Health Risks

The 2km exclusion zone around residential areas was proposed because of the health risks highlighted and objected to by the people of the Scenic Hills area.

The NSW Health Dept stated that there had been insufficient studies to estimate the level of risk and they recommended studies take place to clarify these uncertainties. They point to the situation at Tara as exemplifying this worrying uncertainty. (The residents of Tara, Qld have complained of a variety of acute health effects which have only appeared after the implementation of the CSG production field in their area and they also fear the longer term carcinogenic effects of BTEX chemicals emitted along with fugitive methane emissions. Researchers from Southern Cross University have demonstrated a threefold increase in methane levels and the marker, radon gas, in the Tara area).

Doctors for the Environment of Australia state "Transparent independent assessment, including Health Impact Assessment and baseline monitoring (of air and water) needs to be in place before any CSG activity". Why are the government not being held account for ignoring their own health advisors?

I live in the Gloucester area where the CSG Project is on a field(PEL 285) that has approximately 4,000 people living on that field. It includes the town of Gloucester of 2,500 people and a relatively densely settled rural area with approximately a further 1,500 residents. The field is only financially viable if it is all developed. The health risks for these 4,000 people are just as real as for the people of Scenic Hills and Tara. So far 17 Pilot wells have been drilled and all have been fracked. Signs of fugitive emissions are numerous with blow outs, chemical evidence of connectivity of ground and surface water, bubbling in old bore holes and in puddles when it rains etc. Yet despite Tara health complaints since 2008 no baseline monitoring occurred of methane levels prior to fracking took place and none since it occurred.

This is a totally irresponsible attitude of AGL towards the residents of the Gloucester Valley.

The conditional licence to produce was granted prematurely by a Minister now being investigated by ICAC for corrupt behaviour in his granting of mining licenses. No bond was required to cover the potential health costs and suffering of potentially 4,000 valley residents. It is totally ridiculous to persist in using this utterly suspect license as a reason to not include Gloucester residential area in the excluded areas and the presence of more than 1,000 further residents on small farms etc in the valley also deserve equal consideration in protecting their health.

As a psychiatrist I have seen many people suffering stress conditions from the threats inherent in the inappropriate development of a Gas Project in a populated area.

The 2km exclusion zone distance is a totally arbitrary distance based on no science whatsoever.

At the very least a moratorium needs to be placed on CSG Mining until the health and safety risks are clarified.

Special Areas

Gloucester Valley landscape is an example of a special area which also needs inclusion in this legislation.

Gloucester Valley has unique heritage significance. It is the land of the first pastoral company, the AA Company. It has been under consideration for a number of years for greater official heritage recognition. As anyone who saw the ABC program 'Gas Leaks' would know the sight of several hundred gas wells and associated infrastructure squeezed into a narrow picturesque heritage landscape would permanently wreck a landscape that should be preserved for the many generations to come.

Water Catchment Areas

Obviously waterways that are used for domestic water supply should not be risked on a non essential activity such as the small Gloucester Gas Project. (BHP keep telling us they have a surplus of gas already developed and available now and for years to come. NSW is part of Australia it doesn't need to be self sufficient).

CSG fields threaten water supplies both in the toxicity from the opening up of fracked ground water aquifers and also the loss of river flow from all the water removed from these layers in order to get the gas and the toxic salts in the produced water. Countless examples exist of holding dams etc which have overflowed and entered surface water systems.

The Avon River whose floodplain some of the Gloucester Gas Project wells are sited contributes to the domestic water supply by MidCoast Water of 75,000 customers. It is crazy to allow this particular unnecessary risk to persist and water catchment areas need to be included in the exclusion zones legislation.

Open Cut Coal Mining

Virtually all the above arguments also apply to areas affected by open cut coal mining. The height of ridiculousness is seen in the Gloucester Valley where AGL want to site some of their wells in a proposed open cut mine and are objecting to an existing coal mine expansion because they want access to the land. Clearly they are both inappropriate and much greater buffer zones are needed for open cut coal mines with compensation arrangements for people living in these expanded areas.

Dr Steve Robinson

2806 Thunderbolts Way, Gloucester NSW. Tel 0265587428

srlup - Submission, Strategic Regional Policy

From: Griggs Peter <grigpeter@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 7:37 PM
Subject: Submission, Strategic Regional Policy

To the Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39,
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Submission to amendments.

The SEPP amendments should protect all people not just the towns and cities. The SEPP amendments should be further broadened to include 2km buffer zones around all local council approved dwellings in all CSG mining proposed areas. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.

Provisions in the SEPP amendments should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation. Existing operations should be monitored and if found to destroy the environment by poisoning underground water, surface ground water or the atmosphere should cease operations until contained.

The Coal seam gas industry would have to be the largest environmental threat to all Australian people native animal and flora, it has the potential to destroy artesian water reserves by poisoning the water the atmosphere and large areas land, it requires large areas of land to be cleared causing further problems with erosion silting of surface water and poisoning water resources. This industry should have never been allowed to operate and alternate clean energy should be used.

Corrupt Government and industry allows the destruction of this earth, there is a God and His name is Jesus Christ the Lord and he has promised to return to destroy those that destroy the earth, don't be in that number, make the right decisions and uphold the Law as good ministers of the letter of the Law.

I hope goodness prevails and the best SEPP can be produced and be upheld by all parties.

Kind regards

Peter Griggs

srlup - Coal seam gas residential exclusion zone

From: "Wendy Grimm" <wagrimm@tpg.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 7:46 PM
Subject: Coal seam gas residential exclusion zone
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Decision Makers,

I am very concerned that the mining and gas industry still has access to the overwhelming majority of NSW, including sensitive natural areas. The proposed 2km exclusion zone will not deliver the much needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.

Once this destruction has occurred there is no way to reverse the process. You may try to replant vegetation but it is impossible to reconstruct the layers of strata within the earth's crust and to maintain the natural water movement so vital in our water-poor land.

You must listen to the people and enact binding protections for our rural communities, prime agricultural land and iconic natural places still under threat.

Wendy Grimm B Sc Geology
Australian plants enthusiast and ecologist.

srlup - Submission for proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones

From: Alison Parr <ali_parr@yahoo.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 8:14 PM
Subject: Submission for proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones

To whom it may concern,

The following are points I would like to make about the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP):

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours faithfully,
Alison Parr

P: 6679 7101

E: ali_parr@yahoo.com

srlup - coal seam gas mining

From: "jvere" <jvere@colourcity.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2013 11:49 PM
Subject: coal seam gas mining

Dear Sir,

I believe that we know far too little about coal seam gas mining and implore your government put a stop to this type of mining until serious research has been carried out to determine how safe/unsafe it is. Evidence from the USA suggests we should be very, very cautious about this type of mining,

Regards, Jenny

Jenny Vere
ORANGE NSW

srlup - Submission re Ammendments to the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) to implement CSG Exclusion Zones

From: "Colin Duncan" <candwduncan@southernphone.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 12:38 AM
Subject: Submission re Ammendments to the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) to implement CSG Exclusion Zones

The Unconventional Extraction of Gas from sources such as Coal Seam Gas, Shale Gas and Tight Sands Gas had never been a viable industry until the US Government passed legislation allowing the Industry to effectively By-pass the need to satisfy any Health and Environmental protection for the people of the United States.

The actions of the US Government has allowed the CSG Industry to proceed in that country without conducting the otherwise mandatory base line studies that would ensure the industry was operating safely. In the US that has meant that in instances where the public's water sources have become contaminated the Onus of Proof has been transferred to the victim, the public whose water has been contaminated. Without the missing baseline studies this has been impossible to prove even though the overwhelming evidence suggested that the Mining activities have been the cause.

In Queensland the Suspect Approvals rushed through by the State Government based on what is now known to be inadequate Impact studies and non-existent scientific data once again transferred the Onus of Proof away from the Gas Companies onto the Australian Public.

Unfortunately for the Gas Companies during the time they were pushing ahead in Queensland and before they could become established in NSW, damning evidence was emanating from the US where enough time had elapsed to gather sufficient scientific data to prove the damage done by CSG Mining activities to people's health and their drinking water supplies.

Despite the ever increasing flow of negative information coming from the US, and also the Queensland operations, the NSW State Government gave the go ahead for some CSG operations based on the Gas Companies now untrue assertions that there was no evidence of health problems or aquifer contamination anywhere in the world.

The Gas Companies nearly got away with it except for 2 landmark findings which effectively transferred the Onus of Proof back to the Gas Companies to prove that they could guarantee that they wouldn't impact our water supplies and the

productive abilities of our agricultural land.

The first - SHCAG PTY LD V Minister for Planning & Infrastructure & Boral Cement Ltd [2013] NSW LEC 1031

And Secondly - The IESC's Advice to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population & Communities Re The Arrow Surat Gas Project EPBC 2010/5344 Expansion

These 2 findings exposed the absence of the science that the Gas & Mining Companies refer to in their PR Ads and the Glossy presentations they make to would be investors and gullible politicians.

Until the Governments ignore, or find a way around these findings, the Gas Companies won't come back to NSW because they know they can't prove they won't contaminate our aquifers and groundwater and when they did they would have no idea how to fix it.

I find it hard to take these proposed amendments to the SEPP seriously when I know that the NSW Government is sponsoring CSG Industry Reps to travel around the Rural areas of the State selling CSG Mining as "Safe" and "Good for the Environment" based on the same "Science" that has now been proven to be false. In a State where 75% of the well informed Residents have said NO to CSG Mining, the State Government is still spending Taxpayers' Money trying to convince them otherwise.

However, in the hope that Democracy will eventually triumph over the self- interest of politicians, I propose the following amendments to the proposed amendments to the SEPP

- 1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings. To do anything less would be Discriminatory.**
- 2. Mining activities should be prohibited less than 500 meters from the boundary of adjacent properties.**
- 3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas. Any such decisions should require a referendum of the residents of the Council controlled area. With the new legislation being proposed by MP Don Paige which will allow the State Government to dismiss a Council and replace it with its own**

Administrator if the State Government doesn't like what it's doing, this proposed amendment to the SEPP is irrelevant and should be removed completely.

- 4. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.**
- 5. In areas of high rainfall and that are prone to flooding, the practice of using "Holding Ponds" to store the Toxic Produce water from the CSG exploration activities is highly irresponsible. The Toxic Waste should be safely stored in sealed tanks similar to those used in Oil Storage facilities and Refineries.**
- 6. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight sands gas.**
- 7. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.**

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission

Yours sincerely,

Colin Duncan
Northern Rivers
NSW

srlup - Fracting in US caused poisoning

From: ANNICK SAINT <annicksaint@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 3:19 AM
Subject: Fracting in US caused poisoning

Australia land does not need to experience more fracting

A dear friend in america had been poisoned by living nearby a fracting area

We cannot stop rain and the blending of chemicals that is left over after fracting It is Disaster to poison the land your sacred HOME

Take note you cannot eat money

Health is Wealth.

srlup - CSG exclusion zones

From: Michelle White <soror_aci@yahoo.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>, "office@premier...
Date: 10/04/2013 5:51 PM
Subject: CSG exclusion zones

Greetings and Salutations,

I am writing as a concerned resident of NSW regarding the recent proposal to create 2km exclusion zone for CSG projects in NSW. I urge the government to listen to public opinion on this vital issue to assure the health and protection of Land and People. Recent media coverage has revealed that CSG projects are being pushed forward without the necessary environmental impact studies needed. I urge the government to proceed further with this exclusion to cover existing approved projects and call for a full moratorium on all CSG projects until all required research can be completed to assess the impacts on land, people and our vital resources.

Your sincerely,

Michelle Clarie White

srlup - submission

From: "d.fletcher" <pixora@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 5:53 PM
Subject: submission

The Director Strategic Regional Policy,
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am emailing you today, as a very concerned Australian citizen...

Regarding:

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The NSW government has released a draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones

The proposed changes provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters.

However, they do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow councils to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Please reconsider the future for ALL AUSTRALIANS and Our Future
 Thank you for your time and consideration
 Yours Sincerely
 Debrah Fletcher

srlup - no more coal seam gas

From: neena scott <neena@ambrosiatree.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 5:53 PM
Subject: no more coal seam gas

The facts are evident in Australia and other Countries of the devastation to all life.
Soil is 'living', plants, animals, essential bee pollination, and humans, and our essentials of pure air,pure waters and soils.
Do not allow the few who make money to destroy our Country and her life.
They do not do it in their own bck yard,,,,,,so it is NO to ours !

Scott Family and nighbours.

srlup - submission: mining state environmental planning policy

From: Tina Parker <tina_greg73@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 6:11 PM
Subject: submission: mining state environmental planning policy

To whom it may concern, I feel that the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy does not go far enough to protect our farms, rural properties, vital food growing lands, our water catchments and waterways, and our sensitive Eco systems, or the health of our communities. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings, and should also apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched by an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.

10 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Dear Sir

Draft Mining SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

We are writing to request that the Wollombi Valley be included in the Viticulture Zone as shown in the Critical Industry Cluster Land Map –Sheet CIC_ 003

The Wollombi Valley is home to a number of vineyards and is already recognised as a significant part of the lower Hunter Valley. In particular:

- It is an integral part of the Lower Hunter wine growing region, and features strongly in the promotion of Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourism, the major tourism body for the region.
- There is already recognition by the State Government of New South Wales of the Wollombi Valley as a wine growing region. The State Government, through Destination NSW, supports Sculpture in the Vineyards with grants from its Regional Flagship Event Programme in 2012 and 2013. Sculpture in the Vineyards is an annual event in vineyards in the Wollombi Valley.
- It is an essential element of a complete tourist loop of the region. This loop includes the Wollombi Valley, Mt View, Pokolbin/Lovedale and Broke.

We therefore submit that the entire Hunter Valley wine growing region, including the Wollombi Valley, should be incorporated in the proposed Exclusion Zone, not a part only as presently drafted.

Apart from the viticulture issues, there are other reasons why the Wollombi Valley should be excluded from coal seam gas exploration and mining, including:

- It contains many locations of historical, heritage and aboriginal significance.
- It is very prone to flooding, particularly on the valley floor where coal seam gas activities would need to operate.
- It is very narrow in parts which would preclude well sites and associated infrastructure.
- Its many steep wooded hillsides are a perennial fire hazard.

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours faithfully

Name and address supplied.

Details omitted for privacy reasons

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: "Denis and Lyn Slater" <lyndenlodge@exemail.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 7:03 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy,
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39,
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There seems absolutely no comprehensible reason to **NOT EXCLUDE** water catchment areas from coal seam gas mining.

There are no genuinely independent study results that can unconditionally guarantee the integrity of our water supply if we allow coal seam gas drilling in the water catchment areas. There is currently no regulation to force mining companies to perform base line studies of either the water aquifers or the surrounding air quality, before commencing coal seam gas drilling. We therefore will never know the amount of pollution or contamination caused by coal seam gas drilling.

There is however both actual and anecdotal evidence of significant, water pollution, air contamination, and personal health issues related directly to the coal seam gas industry.

There are extremely comprehensive and strictly controlled regulations protecting our water catchment areas and the reasons for this is clearly obvious. As residents of Sydney's drinking water catchment area we have to abide by these strict regulations. To now allow wholesale drilling for CSG in these areas is incomprehensible.

There must be an immediate declaration of a total ban on any coal seam gas drilling in our water catchments.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF POSSIBLE FUTURE CONTAMINATION OF OUR DIRECT DRINKING WATER SUPPLY IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPREHEND.

D & L Slater
Oakdale NSW

srlup - submission draft mining SEPP amendment

From: "Angie Smith" <dungarvan1@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 7:03 PM
Subject: submission draft mining SEPP amendment

Dungarvan Pastoral co
 "Girrawheen"
 Bellata NSW 2397

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 Sydney NSW 2001

10th April 2013

RE: Draft Mining SEPP amendment to implement coal seam gas exclusion zones

-
 My husband and I are broadacre farmers with farmland situated east of Bellata in north west New South Wales. We grow a variety of dryland crops including bread wheat, durum wheat, mung beans, chick peas, canola and cotton. We also run a small herd of beef cattle. We have been farming for 20 years and both of us are fourth generation farmers. Our strong bonds with agriculture have been passed onto our three children and our family hopes to farm for many generations to come. Our farmland is mapped as Strategic Agricultural Land.

With respect to the draft amendment being made to the mining SEPP to prohibit coal and coal seam gas development on or under land within a 2km residential zone, we strongly believe rural dwellings and productive farmland should be included in the 2km exclusion zone draft. Included are residential zones, future residential growth areas and Critical Industry Clusters currently identified as the Upper Hunter equine and viticulture. Why should our homes and farmland be excluded from this draft? Are our homes any different to residential dwellers and our productive farmlands, which produce food for the world, any different to the equine and viticulture industries?

We would appreciate the same level of protection from these extractive industries for productive agricultural land and rural dwellings. It is paramount that legislation is quickly achieved to ensure food and fibre production for the future and protect agriculture as an industry. A 2km exclusion zone from coal and coal seam gas mining on or under productive agricultural land and rural dwellings can help achieve this. We urge you to include our homes and productive farms in the 2km exclusion zone and protect precious agricultural land.

Brenden and Angie Smith
 "Girrawheen"
 Bellata NSW 2397

srlup - Larger Exclusion Zone Needed

From: "Spider Redgold" <s.redgold@tfbsolutions.org>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 7:17 PM
Subject: Larger Exclusion Zone Needed

I am a NSW Voter

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 18 km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to all projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards

S. Redgold

srlup - submission re CSG amendment

From: "John" <thickett@optusnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 7:59 PM
Subject: submission re CSG amendment

Re; Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I would like to see this amendment go further, to prohibit coal seam gas development in areas including farming/food producing areas, water catchment areas and areas where groundwater could be affected.

I would prefer to see development of alternative energy technologies.

From: "K.Margaret Scheidler" <kmargaret@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 8:15 PM
Subject: submission

Director Strategic Regional Policy
Dept of Planning and Infrastructure

I herewith submit the following:

1. SEPP should include the 2km buffer zone around ALL residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto local councils should be removed. They are elected by and represent the local people.
3. Food producing lands, water catchment areas and environmentally sensitive areas should all be excluded.
4. SEPP amendments should apply, not only to CSG but all coal mining and unconventional gas extraction incl. shale gas and tight gas.
5. SEPP amendment should also apply to projects that have been approved and have not satisfied the conditions of approval.

K.Margaret Scheidler
786 Terania Creek Rd
The Channon NSW 2480

Kmargaret@gmail.com

sr lup - Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

From: Nan Nicholson <terania@rainforestpublishing.com.au>
To: <sr lup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 8:19 PM
Subject: Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

Dear Director Strategic Regional Policy,

I am concerned about any proposal to mine coal seam gas (CSG) in NSW. The evidence coming from Queensland, where there are already many hundreds of CSG wells, should be enough to make the NSW Government very wary of inflicting such an industry with its hidden and not-so-hidden side-effects on the people of NSW.

I am a small farmer grazing beef cattle and am in the process of purchasing another property to double my grazing area. I am proud of the calves I send to market. They always rank near the best price on the day and I know they are well-reared, grass-fed and healthy for consumers.

However, if CSG or any other shale or tight gas industry comes to my area, my farming production is at risk from contaminated water, soil and air.

Additionally, my new property has a small camp ground - the only one in this area. It attracts campers who are visiting the local National Parks; galleries in the village or the monthly craft market. CSG pollution and the attendant industrial landscape will lead to a reduction in tourist visitation numbers and adversely affect my business and other local businesses.

The current 2km CSG buffer around built up areas must be expanded to include a **2km buffer around all residences in rural areas**.

The recent change to preclude mining from horse studs and vineyards, while commendable, is quite shocking. Why has this government decided that horse racing (gambling) and wine production (alcohol) should be protected when food producing farms such as mine do not qualify for protection? Obviously if there is enough doubt about the safety of CSG operations for the Government to have protected horse studs and vineyards, then these doubts should lead to **protection of all food producing lands**.

Such exclusion zones must also cover **water catchments and environmentally sensitive areas**. Australia is recognised as the driest continent. The CSG industry is recognised as a huge user of water (and producer of contaminated water). These facts are mutually exclusive. To risk contamination of good, clean water anywhere in Australia is anathema. Andrew Stoner, leader National Party, said on ABC TV, "There will always be accidents." If there is any risk of contamination of our surface or underground water, the chances of clean-up will be negligible while the attendant cost will be prohibitive. Don't risk our precious water resources to a short-term, environmentally-threatening industry whose chief proponents are based off-shore and have little interest in Australia's future once they have made their profit.

I am concerned that the SEPP amendment is written in such a way that **Local Councils** may make an over-riding approval of a mining proposal but there is no provision for a Local Council to protect their community from CSG or any other form of unconventional gas production by listing new prohibited areas. This must be addressed by giving Local Government the power to protect important areas within their LGA.

The current SEPP amendment addresses the coal seam gas industry. As mentioned earlier in this submission, it is important that the NSW Government widen the amendment to include all unconventional gas - CSG, shale and tight gas. It should go without saying that the credibility of this Government rests on its moving away from fossil fuels in all forms and toward the renewable energy industry.

Please ensure the SEPP amendments apply to all proposed and approved unconventional gas operations in this State.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Nicholson

--
 Terania Rainforest Publishing
 1357 Terania Creek Road
 The Channon, via Lismore
 NSW 2480

Tel: 02 6688 6204
 Fax: 02 6688 6227

Web: www.rainforestpublishing.com.au

From: Jenny Kemp <sweetpeajk@icloud.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 8:35 PM
Subject: Submission regarding CSG exclusion zones

- >
- > 1. The Clarence Valley in The Northern Rivers NSW should be included in the exclusion zones for Coal Seam Gas mining as this is a sensitive environmental area where flooding is a normal occurrence.
- >
- > 2. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
- >
- > 3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
- >
- > 4. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
- >
- > 5. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
- >
- > 6. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

>

Jennifer Kemp
76 Melaleuca Drive
Yamba NSW 2464

>

>

>

From: Julie Kidd <julie_a_kidd@bigpond.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 8:58 PM
Subject: re Draft Amendment to State Environmental Planning Policy

Dear Sir/ Madam,

We cannot allow our water table to be fractured, poisoned or overused. This continent is too dry to allow such reckless disregard for our water supply.

Please ensure that the CSG exclusion zones include all water catchment areas, farmland and sensitive environmental areas.

Please give local councils the right to list new prohibited areas.

yours sincerely

Julie Kidd

srlup - Submission on NSW CSG exclusion zones

From: Gabriele Downie <hapigo49@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 9:12 PM
Subject: Submission on NSW CSG exclusion zones

To Director of Planning and Infrastructure,

I think it very important for the future of our water and food production that the SEPP amendments take the following into account:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

We cannot risk our environment and the future of our children. Please act to protect our greatest resource!

Yours sincerely

Gabriele and Christopher

Bundanoon, NSW

srlup - Mining SEPP

From: "Shirley Gladding" <shirleygladding@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 9:29 PM
Subject: Mining SEPP

I wish to lodge an objection to the proposed amendments to the Mining State Environment Planning Policy to implement CSG exclusion zones, as I do not think the proposed changes go far enough:-

All residential dwellings should be given a 2km buffer. Why should some residents be protected but not others? Quote from Barry O'Farrell's press release :- 'Families in residential areas should not have to worry about their quality of life being affected by the noise, the visual impacts and other effects of coal seam gas mining'. Why are residents in rural communities not given the same considerations?

It concerns me that councils will be allowed to exempt areas from protection. To allow this discretionary decision making could leave cash-strapped councils open to inappropriate influence from industry.

I am very confused about the thoroughbred and viticulture industries having protection, yet food growing areas, drinking water and other catchment areas and other important environmental areas at risk are not protected. How can this be justified? On what grounds were these decisions made? Food production areas, drinking water and other catchment areas and all environmental areas at risk should be guaranteed protection by being excluded from CSG. After all, clean water and fresh food are basic life needs and we have a responsibility to ensure their protection for the future.

The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval and have not yet started operation.

Shirley Gladding,
3/2 Kialoa Road,
Woonona 2517

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Coal seam gas exclusion zones) 2013

From: Loretta Leslie <leslie.loretta@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 9:57 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Coal seam gas exclusion zones) 2013

Dear Minister

Please consider the following points:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential areas.
2. Councils' right to veto should be removed unless it is matched by an equivalent power for Councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all food producing lands, water catchment and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to all unconventional gas extractions including shale and tight gas
5. The SEPP should be applied to all projects which have been approved but not yet satisfied their conditions of approval and have not yet commenced operations

With thanks

Loretta Leslie
14 Hollywood Crescent
Smiths Beach Victoria

srlup - DRAFT NSW GOVERNMENT SEPP Amendment On CSG Exclusion Zones

From: <pacussinet@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 10:09 PM
Subject: DRAFT NSW GOVERNMENT SEPP Amendment On CSG Exclusion Zones

This submission is addressed to the Director of Strategic Regional Policy:

With concern and indignation I write to you to reconsider the Mining SEPP as they are designed specifically to meet the needs of the mining companies. These amendments certainly do not protect those living on farms and rural properties as well as they fail to protect vital food growing lands ,water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

These so called amendments are more like loopholes. To allow local councils to exempt an area from the protection while at the same time failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection is absurd. Everyone knows that local governments are the most corrupt forms of governments! These amendments suit the mining industry so it is clear that the SEPP amendments designed by your department are favouring the global unconventional mining business and ignoring the mere 75 percentage of NSW residents across the state who clearly and overwhelmingly oppose this dirty and destructive industry. 75% Sir ! There is no social licence for this industry but despite that your government insists with this pretence of "community consultation".

But if your government was serious about doing the right thing for the people of NSW then the SEPP mining amendments should be broadened to include a 2 km buffer around all residential dwellings.The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive areas.The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal and to all other forms of unconventional gas. And last but not least the SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

The NSW State government has the obligation to protect all NSW population not just some from this invasive and destructive industry. We have had enough of the dirty politics.Its time for the NSW government to act in favour of all the people of NSW and respect our position with relation to Unconventional Gas and mining in general.

With all my respects
ANA CUSSINET

srlup - CSG Exclusion Zones - Submission

From: Katrina Dickson <kmcdon20@myune.edu.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 10:10 PM
Subject: CSG Exclusion Zones - Submission

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001
10 April, 2013

While I commend the NSW Government for considering the implementation of exclusion zones for CSG mining development around urban developments, the horse and wine industries, I make the following points:

- The Precautionary Principle needs to be applied to CSG mining and development immediately. We do not have the confidence that such developments will not damage aquifers, water quality, and/or the environment, or lead to health problems. As a responsible government, the NSW Government must not be negligent in allowing such developments to take place when these risks have not been identified. In many cases, despite industry "make good" policies, damage will be irreversible. This opposes the principles of Ecological Sustainable Development, particularly the principle of intergenerational equity, as current and future generations will suffer the consequences.
- When considering exclusion zones, **all** high value assets should be protected the same way. For example, high value agricultural soils, high value biodiversity, aquifers and rivers and streams should all be afforded the same absolute protection.
- If people are to be protected in a residential area, as the proposed 2 km exclusion zone will do, then **all** people should be offered the same protection. People living in a single farm house are no less important than people living in a house in an urban community.
- Local Governments should **not** have the right to overrule exclusions - they do not have the expertise to assess the risks.

Yours sincerely,
Katrina McDonald
1120 Warrah Ridge Road
Quirindi 2343
0429 461092

From: Jacinta Lynch <jacinta.lynch@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 10:18 PM
Subject: RE draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

These protections don't go far enough:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

srlup - please stop the promotion toxic technologies

From: Geoff Nant <geoffnant@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 11:16 PM
Subject: please stop the promotion toxic technologies

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Miss Shellee Latimore

2/20 Harrier Parade

Calala, Tamworth

NSW, 2340

Thursday April 4, 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I have been a resident in Tamworth for eighteen months and have previously been a resident of the Far North Coast. Over the preceding eighteen months I have become much more aware of the activity of the CSG industry and as a result I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy to regulate the CSG industry.

There are several key areas of both coal and unconventional gas industries that cause concern for me including:

- 1) The lack of support for rural residents
 - While there is mention of a 2km exclusion zone for urban residents, there is no mention of protection for rural residents. This not only includes a lack of protection for their land and income but also their health. The impact of air and water pollution on health is unknown and could potentially be devastating. While there are expressions of health concerns and proposed protection for urban centres such as Sydney, the economy appears to be more important than the health of rural families that work to help feed our country.
- 2) The lack of support to protect agricultural land and the owners of the land
 - The rural residents of NSW and Australia have a right to have their health and wealth protected from the CSG industry. If the productive land is mined so heavily that it is turned into unproductive wasteland where will our food be produced? Furthermore, if the water required for agricultural production is polluted by the

actions of the CSG industry where will the water be sourced from to enable continued agricultural production? I am extremely concerned for the future generations of Australia. The environmental disaster that is encouraged by continued CSG mining that is largely not regulated could have severe impacts on environmental and population sustainability.

- 3) The lack of knowledge of the long term environmental impacts
 - The sustainability of the Australian environment is essential for future generations. Having travelled overseas I could not be prouder to call Australia home. We are the lucky country. Yet we have a booming industry that destroys the beauty that is Australia. The CSG industry is known to contaminate soil and waterways and there is no known cure for this pollution. The CSG industry needs to be regulated to protect not only agricultural land but also high value lands and conservation areas for unique flora and fauna that future generations should be able to appreciate for its beauty. Australia is AMAZING, let's keep it that way.
- 4) The lack of knowledge of the impact on population health
 - While there is proposed protection for urban areas, again where is the protection for the rural residents? Furthermore where is the protection from the CSG industry for the productive land that could easily become polluted and consequently contaminate food production? What would be the long term impact on population health? Are the rural residents of Australia to be used as rats in this experiment? Prevention is far better than cure. After working in NSW health this has become increasingly apparent. The push for preventative health care should reach further than how many servings of fruits and vegetables the population has each day. Their living environment needs to be protected from pollution. Such protection will only be provided if legislation is corrected to encourage preventative health care strategies to protect Australians from CSG industry pollution.

Yours sincerely,

Shellee Latimore

From: <james.quinn@safetystep.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 11/04/2013 7:15 AM
Subject: Mining SEPP Submission

RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MINING STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (MINING SEPP) TO IMPLEMENT CSG EXCLUSION ZONES.

I wish you to accept and consider my submission to the SEPP

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you

James Quinn

775 Wyrallah Road

Wyrallah

NSW 2480

srlup - Re: Coal seam gas E-Zones

From: ezonesreview
To: Indra S
Date: 14/03/2013 4:30 PM
Subject: Re: Coal seam gas E-Zones

Dear Sir / Madam

Thank you for your recent email to the E Zones Review Project regarding Coal Seam Gas Mining. Your submission has been forwarded on to the relevant email address (Strategic Land Use Policy, srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au).

Regards

Nicole Zecchin
Administration Officer
Planning Operations Coordination Branch
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
Working Tues-Thurs

>>> Indra S <indradha@hotmail.com> 3/8/2013 1:08 pm >>>

Good afternoon,

I commend the NSW State Government on its acknowledgement of the risks involved with CSG mining. The exclusion zones and reviews that are planned are a great idea, however, I don't think these go anywhere near far enough.

ALL agricultural industry (not just horses and vineyards) needs to be protected from the ill effects of CSG. ALL residents deserve to be protected, even if, like me, they live in rural areas. In fact, the more rural the area the more it needs protection from the pollutive CSG industry, because the regional areas are our water catchment. Our clean water is NOT a replaceable commodity. In contrast, there are MANY alternatives to CSG mining. The process of CSG extraction is simply too costly to human health. Until we have scientific proof to the contrary, we should instead be funneling our efforts and our state resources into establishing solar panels for every household. The only energy crisis we are experiencing is a lack of governmental support in switching to clean, green alternatives. In my area 87% of residents oppose the CSG industry. Many of those 87% are actively involved in limiting the development of CSG mining in our local area. The NSW government should represent the majority and proceed with a full moratorium until independent scientific studies can be conducted.

Regards,
Indra Stephenson

ANNIE MORRIS WIELAND
32 FITZGERALD STREET • KATOOMBA NSW • 2780
PHONE: +612 4782 9328 • MOBILE: 0407016122
EMAIL: amwieland@aapt.net.au

April 11, 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

I believe the **2 km exclusion zone** proposed while seeming to go in the right direction does not go nearly far enough. Any exploration license which has already been given is not included in this proposed legislation rendering it merely a token to pacify voters prior to the election.

It does nothing to insure that water catchments, agricultural land, or native forests are protected, and has no teeth to make the industry accountable for damage to humans or our land and water resources.

Extracting and burning fossil fuel is the problem and not part of the solution or even a smart transition. Even if there were a safe and non harmful way to extract (coal, coal seam gas and other petroleum products) and there isn't, burning them anywhere on the planet fuels unacceptable climate change.

Our water catchments, the Great Artesian Basin and prime food production areas are not protected...nor is our own health protected from the toxicity from coal seam gas industry that inevitably arises.

We are not so naive as to think this legislation is looking out for our interests. One has to ask the question why politicians are subsidizing and promoting this obsolete industry. We will reach a time in the not too distant future when the idiocy of letting these resources be compromised by toxicity and foreign investment will become only too evident.

Deutsche Bank did a study saying basically renewables are cheaper to produce NOW and create more jobs.

So I ask you to take the courageous step and place a moratorium on CSG, coal mining and other extractive fossil fuel industries. It is imminently possible to turn our country around and be completely reliable on safe, durable, forever renewables.

Sincerely,
Annie Morris Wieland
Katoomba

srlup - Submission to the proposed planning changes for Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

From: "Struan Willis" <sue.stru@ipstarmail.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 12:25 PM
Subject: Submission to the proposed planning changes for Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

Sue Willis
 "4D"
 Quirindi. 2343
 7th April, 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of the district of Carroona on the Liverpool Plains and welcome the opportunity to express my views on the amendment to prohibit CSG exploration and production on, and within two kilometres of, land zoned residential and proposed future residential areas. Also that drilling underneath these areas will also be prohibited. I am aware that there has been some areas identified as Critical Industry Clusters which protects some industries, notably the Upper Hunter horse breeding and wine making industries.

I applaud you for finally making this step but feel it is a very small step in what is a very destructive industry in other very sensitive areas. Our family farms the beautiful soils of the Liverpool Plains and I can see no sense in allowing CSG and coal mining in areas that depend on water for food production when the science is definitely not in on what the repercussions are for the maintenance of our water supply. We only have to look over the border to Queensland where the CSG industry has taken hold to see the beginnings of massive problems with either the loss of, or contamination of, the water supply. And still we see governments allowing these activities to continue, telling us that there will be more control and compliance within these destructive industries.

The government needs to go further and stop all CSG mining in areas as important as the Liverpool Plains, and within 2km of any river, village and farm house state wide. This should not just apply to city dwellings but every dwelling within the state. Projects already through the approval stage should be stopped and reassessed to comply with this amendment, so that places like Gloucester and the Pilliga are given another chance.

I could go on for pages congratulating you on small steps and giving reasons why you should broaden your amendment but the fact is it makes my blood boil. Small steps take time and that is something we do not have. CSG is moving far too quickly, so quickly that poor decisions are being made allowing this industry to destroy another industry, ruin our drinking and stock water, putting our health at risk and having no regard for our conservation and agricultural lands. Governments of both sides have sat back and allowed these destructive industries of CSG and coal mining to walk in and take over land already occupied and producing food. If a farmer did what these people do they would end up in court. Farmers generally have nurtured their land for generations and you are going to allow a short term industry to destroy our industry in one generation.

I urge you to broaden your amendment to include 2km from every dwelling state wide and to include the Liverpool Plains within the Critical Industry Cluster.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Willis

Wife, Farmer, Registered Nurse and Concerned Citizen

From: Leigh Ryan <lryan99@icloud.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 12:06 pm
Subject: CSG on the Mid North Coast

I support Rob Oakeshott's proposal to extend the coal seam gas exclusion zones to the Mid North Coast, specifically around Taree & Gloucester. The current proposal does not go far enough in protecting our local environment.

Regards,

Leigh Ryan

srlup - State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries Amendment) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: "Angela Martin" <actpmartin@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 11:59 AM
Subject: State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries Amendment) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

To Minister Brad Hazzard, Minister for Planning, members of Planning NSW,

I wish to make a brief submission into the public exhibition of SEPP (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries Amendment) effectively enshrining in law the recent changes announced by Premier Barry O'Farrell, enabling a complete prohibition on coal seam gas mining on or under lands within 2km of residential areas, the "buffer zone", otherwise known as the coal seam gas exclusion zone. All of the lands shown in Schedule 2 within NSW should now be made exempt from further coal seam gas activities, as well as the lands already identified as Critical industry clusters, most notably viticulture and thoroughbred breeding.

These changes are timely, and the zone of affectation for coal seam gas extends into rural lands especially in my local community of Gunnedah, Marys Mount, and these communities should be protected in law from further development and exploration of unconventional coal seam gas. Current exploration in areas such as Broke, by AGL, Marys Mount, by Santos, are noted and it should be now enshrined in law that coal seam gas extraction is not to occur within these rich food producing areas, and lucrative tourism areas. On my recent tour AGL's site at Broke, I noted the resultant foot-print coal seam gas activity has once it is in full production, I was given extensive information on the pipelines running to Hexham, and the likely demand for gas, both domestic and internationally, noting that any production out of Broke or other NSW areas would be for the domestic market.

Seismic exploration has been carried out alongside roadways in many areas of NSW, and the Pilliga forest is a current and good example of why coal seam gas production should not be occurring in NSW. Queensland stand to profit considerably from their recent activities in the export market, however inland NSW should be remaining a tourist haven and a food-producing area, and therefore I will not support any production out of Broke or other parts of inland NSW.

Topographically diverse and industry diverse, New South Wales should be on a trajectory of rich, regionally-based value-adding and tertiary sector development.

Instead we are seeing a displacement of many long-standing, multi-generation farming families, as they seek to live a lifestyle and farm, run an enterprise that is not going to be continually impacted by expansion of extractive industries, and the accompanying factors that go with extractive industries, namely Fly-in Fly-Out workers, mining accommodation villages, increased expansion of related industries including aerial surveillance of mining sites, increased traffic flows, increased infrastructure, such as roadways, pipelines, compressor stations, that accompany a productive coal seam gas industry. My local community has spoken quite categorically, and they don't want it- coal seam gas, not now, not ever.

Liverpool Plains farming country is productive and much sought-after for lifestyle reasons as much as profit-generating reasons. I have been given a complete description of directional drilling and fracking and it is still a widely-held view that although the foot-print is less than open-cut coal mining, there should be areas of New South Wales that are off-limits for coal seam gas production and that surely extends into rich, food-producing areas of New South Wales including the Liverpool plains.

I note that the public exhibition and public consultation process closes tomorrow Friday April 12th, 2013, I

thank you for allowing members of the public to put forward their views on coal seam gas exclusion zones, current and future. I notice within the State Environmental Planning Policy under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979), mention is made of Sydney Region Growth Centres (2006), and land zoned as R1-General density, R2-Low density, R3-medium density, R4-High density, RU5-Villages, I would like to see no more pressure applied on lands in and around inland New South Wales, as these areas are already at a critical juncture of supporting tourism and viticulture, cattle-breeding, productive agriculture, as well as a mining industry that has reached its peak, environmentally and socially.

With regards,
Angela Martin

Curra
10663 Black Stump Way
MULLALEY NSW 2379

srlup - DRAFT NSW GOVERNMENT SEPP Amendment On CSG Exclusion Zones

From: "margaret" <margaretarogers@dodo.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 11:45 AM
Subject: DRAFT NSW GOVERNMENT SEPP Amendment On CSG Exclusion Zones

Director of Strategic Regional Policy

If your government was serious about doing the right thing for the people of NSW then the SEPP mining amendments should be broadened to include a 2 km buffer around all residential dwellings. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive areas. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal and to all other forms of unconventional gas. And last but not least the SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours Sincerely
Margaret Rogers

srlup - Fwd: NSW. CSG. Exclusion Zones

From: Stephen Doyle <stephenrdoyle@gmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 11:32 AM
Subject: Fwd: NSW. CSG. Exclusion Zones

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Stephen Doyle <stephenrdoyle@gmail.com>
Date: 10 April 2013 11:19:52 AM AEST
To: "sriup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <sriup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: NSW. CSG. Exclusion Zones

I am a landholder and resident in the Nambucca Valley. I believe 1. the NSW govt should extend exclusion zones to protect our water catchment areas. 2 country children deserve protection from mining also. 3 The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing areas. 4. The SEPP. Amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas. 5. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.

Thank you Stephen Doyle. Dyers Loop
Sent from my iPad

srlup - Submission regarding the draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: Jane Dargaville <janedargaville@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 10:43 AM
Subject: Submission regarding the draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

To: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express concerns about the limitations on the coal seam gas mining exclusion zones as proposed in the draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

My concerns are as follows:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

I hope you will give serious consideration to my concerns and re-draft the proposed policy accordingly.

Yours sincerely.

Jane Dargaville
12 Bayview Crescent
Taree, NSW, 2430

srlup - Draft mining SEPP to implement exclusion zones

From: [REDACTED]
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 10:40 AM
Subject: Draft mining SEPP to implement exclusion zones

Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning & Infrastructure
 Dear Sir/Madam

The purpose of this email is to implore you to include the Northern Rivers into the CSG exclusion zones. As you would be aware, the overwhelming majority of residents in this area are opposed to CSG & other forms of unconventional gas mining.

We welcome the proposed changes to protect some areas but believe that the exclusions are not sufficient to give protection to other essential areas.

There is no protection for the following-

1. Water catchment areas-(despite an election promise by Barry O'Farrell there would be no wells in the Sydney catchment area). Not only should Sydney water be protected, but it would seem to me that it

can't get more elementary than protecting our catchment areas from possible(probable) contamination. There are already penalties in place for contaminating these areas, but as seems to be the case on numerous occasions, the mining companies are exempt from the rules that govern the rest of us.

2. Rural properties/agricultural land- protection of viticulture & equine industries is all well & good & a smart political move by the Premier, but there is more to this issue than grapes & thoroughbred horses. One would think that the protection of land that produces our food would be at very least, of equal importance to those exempt industries. On an emotional / personal level there many distressing stories of landowners, in some cases with generations of connection to the land, having their lives & properties destroyed. I know these arguments are not the ones to sway Governments in their thinking but they are the 'human face' of this issue. Sometimes I wish that the decision makers could experience some of the negative impacts of this industry & receive a little 'empathy training'.

Shortcomings in the proposed amendments-

The clause that allows councils to 'opt out'. What is the point of putting protection in place & then allowing councils to 'opt out'. That's not protection.

Other forms of unconventional gas mining & coal mining are not covered.

Finally, the amendments should apply to projects that have approved but that have not met conditions of approval & those not yet commenced.

Thank you for your attention to this matter

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED] (please do not publish my name)

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: "Berringtons" <berrington1@yahoo.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 10:11 AM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

My submission points include:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Paul Berrington
Wilson's Creek
NSW 2482

srlup - Draft Mining SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

From: Kirstie Richards <kirstie.richardshome@gmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 10:11 AM
Subject: Draft Mining SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am deeply disappointed by the *Draft Mining SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013*.

The *Draft Mining SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013* proposed to impose arbitrary CSG exclusion zones. It appears to be a poorly thought out response to populist political pressure aimed at supporting marginal political seats and vocal, but misinformed, NIMBY interest groups.

The *Draft Mining SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013* does not appear to be based in science or the experience with the CSG industry to date. Nor does it address the long terms needs of NSW in securing the natural gas supply required for homes and economic growth.

Please rethink the Draft SEPP and come up with something more balanced and rational.

Kind regards,

Kirstie Richards

srlup - CSG Exclusion zones

From: Pamela Reeves <pamela.reeves@optusnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 10:05 AM
Subject: CSG Exclusion zones
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Dear Sir/Madam

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment.

While I think the 2 kilometre exclusion zone around residential and critical industry clusters is a good start, I believe that it needs to go further. It still means that large parts of the state are able to be mined and that projects already approved can go ahead.

There is a concern about the effects on the health of people living close to CSG mines. There has been no comprehensive study done by the Department of Health into the effects of CSG mining. This needs to be done before any more mining can go ahead. I think a moratorium on all CSG and coal mines until this can be fully evaluated.

More concerning, however, is the effect of CSG mining on our water supplies. It is outrageous to me that such mining can proceed in water catchment areas which supplies water to Sydney and Wollongong residents. Our drinking water and aquifers should be protected and not used in such mining where vast volumes of contaminated water are produced. In the 2009 election, Mr O'Farrell promised that his government would ensure that mining wouldn't occur in any water catchment area and that he would ensure that mining leases and exploration permits would reflect that common sense. It is time he honoured that promise.

Large parts of the State are still able to be mined. It is time that areas of conservation value, our agricultural land and our water supplies are protected from CSG and coal mining.

I would like to see the government put into place policies that protect communities and the environment from coal and all types of gas mining. I would also like to see exclusion zones extended to protect our drinking water catchment areas. I also think that exclusion zones should include protection of agricultural, public lands, national parks, state conservation parks and travelling stock routes.

Yours sincerely
Pamela Reeves
29 Kenndy Street
Gladesville NSW 2111

srlup - Re submission on Draft Amendments to Mining SEPP

From: Aletha Zylstra <alethazylstra@yahoo.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 11/04/2013 9:57 AM
Subject: Re submission on Draft Amendments to Mining SEPP

11th April, 2013

To The Director of Strategic Regional Policy (Department of Planning and Infrastructure,)

In regards to the SEPP amendments to CSG Exclusion Zones I would like to make the following comments and requests;

These proposed amendments are a welcome improvement, *however*, they leave rural areas vulnerable to continued threats from CSG mining (including shale gas and tight gas.) These industries pose a serious threat to rural lifestyle, food production, air and water quality and land value. In short, these industries pose a major threat to Australia's future food and water security whilst doing little (and even that 'little' is dubious) to improve our energy security. As a resident in a rural area I would like to see the following points included in the SEPP amendments:

The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.

The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.

The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely,

Aletha Zylstra-Dickinson

From: Kelsaya Antony <kelsayasahara@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 11/04/2013 9:33 AM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

>

> I am writing to in response to the proposed future of CSG mining in NSW.

To being I will state clearly that for our existence to flourish and thrive ' Our whole existence is reliant on clean and healthy water supply to the Earth, Plants, Animals and Humans on this Planet'

> I have very recently lived in the Northern Rivers region of NSW during 2011-2012 when the proposed CSG mining and large scale extent of mining was coming out into the public domain.

>

> Having attended many information sessions and peaceful protests , I now know that with out a shadow of doubt, that CSG mining in our country should be considered a crime, an assault against the environment and humanity, against this county, all its people and all existing life.

>

> There is absolutely no place for it in this land or any where in the world for that matter.

>

> It is so obvious to most of the people who know about it.

>

> When people come to discover, when they start investigating this activity and what it potentially means for our future they know that it is devastating for all aspects of our life and existence.

>

> I am a mother of three small boys and I am so deeply ashamed of our political leaders that they should allow such destruction occur in this land....It moves me in my deepest humanity...it is a violation to our humanity...

> If CSG mining continues in this country to the extent that it has been proposed...What will I tell my children when they are old enough to really understand and be trying to exist with the consequences of what has been proposed in this country if it goes ahead.

>

> I feel ashamed to be an Australian and is only insult to injury in my eyes for the indigenous People...It gives me a little insight into what is may have felt like to be an Aboriginal of this land and have this country and native people be invaded with such destruction. In a new way this invasion and distraction is happening again only much more insidiously and underhandedly ...at least at first until it all started to come out.. Our governments choices are showing us they they are not making healthy choices for this country, people and its future...that Money is going first...Money in its rightful place is a servant to humanity not a dictator.

>

> The insult to us as Australians is that we are being treated so disrespectfully...We are not stupid...We know the truth and in our eyes it makes our political leaders and government only look ever more stupid and ignorant and this is shameful considering the supposed democracy we are meant to live in...Why were we not consulted? We weren't because you already knew deep down that this was wrong and Australians would not abide to it...Hence the covert approach, lack of research and consultation.

>

> How is it that the Great Barrier Reef, A WORLD HERITAGE LISTED AREA, is some how allowed to have such damaging proposals approved with out consultation? This is only corruption speaking as now 'WORLD HERITAGE LISTED' doesn't doesn't appear to mean anything. Caring for and preserving our natural habitats is our human responsibility as co caretakers of this land. Consultation isn't an option...it is the only option.

>

> An amazing consequence of these events that have unfolded around CSG in this country that Australians from all walks of life , of all orientations are uniting together on this one with a common cause...Our beautiful country, our beautiful life in this land, our humanity and our rights to protect our land, our people, children, animals, plants , earth, water! We don't take any of this for granted and certainly not now.....the out weighing majority seem to be on the same page with this one!

>

> I have faith that the humanity in the people who are in the positions to be making different decisions about Australia and its future with CSG will come to realise that that need to and are able to make decisions that value Sustainability, Life, communities, animals, plants, Food security, Clean Water, World Heritage areas and all places of Australia...over the money, growth picture...which has a dead end ..a short term fix turned to environmental disaster...the money that would be then needed to deal with the consequences will be mind boggling ..

>

> .I have faith that they will come to realise that this is the choice that has to be made because we are a democracy and Australians don't want it...that it blatant..Money will never be able fix the damage..we all need water to drink...

>

> Our land is being continued to be treated so badly, raped and pillaged and the consequence of this is that we all will suffer and with pain and regret that could only be unimaginable This isn't the plan for the future that any of us want....we know what is possible...in either direction and I know without any doubt what so ever what I am choosing....and what is totally possible for our future if we chose it.....

>

> Kelsaya Sahara Antony , Mother of Three boys Aurelius aged 5, Pallas aged 4 and Rueben aged 2

.

> 11th April 2013

>

srlup - More protection needed

From: Derek Harper <derekharper@me.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 11/04/2013 9:26 AM
Subject: More protection needed

Greetings,

I live on a rural property in Northern NSW.

My property is worth more \$1 million and more to me.

If a mine or gas well is located within 2 kilometers of my property, my property is worth nothing.

The buffer zone must apply to all dwellings not just towns.

And water and food areas as well.

We cannot afford to pollute the land we live on.

As the bumper sticker says "you can't eat coal and you can't drink gas".

Regards

DH

Derek Harper

PO Box 8

Billinudgel

NSW 2483

+61 (0) 266803032

+61 (0) 438337354

[Skype:derekbharper](skype:derekbharper)

11th April 2013

Jenny Barry
215 Peregrine Road
BILLYWILLINGA NSW 2795

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of the Bathurst area & welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed SEPP draft amendment policy with the view to widening its amendments in order to strengthen its application.

As a resident who lives on a rural property in an area of prime agricultural production, I am strongly opposed to having any form of Coal Seam Gas (CSG) development or other mining on such important and productive land. A recent Fairfax poll found that 75% of NSW residents, across all political parties, strongly oppose coal seam gas development on agricultural land. This figure is indicative of the widespread opposition that exists, in both rural and urban areas, to any expansion of this industry in our state.

Whilst the proposed amendment is a positive move towards the protection of urban areas that are zoned as residential and critical rural industries, it falls short of protecting our key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land. It also fails to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

As yet we remain unaware of the health impacts this type of industry has upon individuals, but already we are aware of the enormous environmental degradation that occurs as a result of this type of mining, due to the experience of other rural communities across Australia.

The process of CSG extraction has been instrumental in contaminating huge underground water resources, resulting in large quantities of contaminated waste water. To allow an industry dependent on such enormous levels of water to be active in rural areas, many of whom are still drought declared and other areas still recovering from extensive drought periods, is destructive and negligent. Rural areas cannot risk their precious water resources being lost and damaged, especially in an age where it is apparent that our weather patterns are resulting in hotter and drier periods where our water resources are further stressed. It is also vital that our water resources are protected in order to maintain their priority usage for food production and not for the priority of mining interests.

It is imperative that the SEPP draft legislation include further amendments to protect productive agricultural land and drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, a promise made

by Premier O'Farrell in 2009. The draft SEPP also needs to include protection for our state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. It is the state government's responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

I call on the government to include these strict amendments in the form of exclusion zones around agricultural lands and landscapes of both conservation and environmental sensitivity, including that where our native wildlife is vulnerable or threatened. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Barry', on a light blue background.

Jenny Barry

srlup - CSG Amendments

From: Jacqueline Ward <jj@jward.net>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 11/04/2013 9:04 AM
Subject: CSG Amendments

The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.

The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.

The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

srlup - Proposed Amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones

From: David Stephenson <harrytangiers@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 11/04/2013 8:56 AM
Subject: Proposed Amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones

To the Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure

10th April 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing with regard to the Draft Amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013. The proposed changes in the amendment provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters.

However, they do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas. The Northern Rivers Region of NSW, for example, produces around 25% of the state's milk and over 30% of the state's soybean yield. Such industries are vital to the food security of NSW. I would even suggest that they are more vital to our survival than the thoroughbred industry. Surely, these areas should be protected as well.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow councils to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining.

I recommend that the following changes made to the Draft Amendment.

Firstly, the SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.

Secondly, the right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.

Thirdly the provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Fourthly, the SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

Finally, the SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

I sincerely hope that the Department can consider my recommendations, for the future food security of New South Wales and Australia.

Yours Truly

David Stephenson
 6 North St
 Lismore
 NSW 2480

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: Berringtons <berrington1@yahoo.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 11/04/2013 8:12 AM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

My submission points include:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Robyn Berrington
Wilson's Creek
NSW. 2482

srlup - proposed CSG exclusion zones

From: "Jane" <shenkari@optusnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 11/04/2013 8:07 AM
Subject: proposed CSG exclusion zones

I disapprove of CSG and there should be NO CSG drilling in Australia. However, suggested feedback points for the proposed submission include.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a buffer around all residential dwellings. Some suggestions have stated a distance of 2km, however I feel this needs be increased to **at least** a minimum of 10km or greater.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards,
Jane McDaniel

srlup

From: brian wilson <brian_wilson48@yahoo.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 5:48 PM

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please consider;

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

srlup - Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

From: Tasara Dewhurst <tasara.fairy@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 5:36 PM
Subject: Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

In relation to the Amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013, I believe this needs further exclusions and rights to councils. These are the changes that must happen.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you,
Sincerely Tasara Dewhurst

srlup - RE:Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones - Public Submission

From: Ali Reid <ali.in.london@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 5:34 PM
Subject: RE:Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones - Public Submission

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

I no longer live in NSW but having family and friends who live in both residential and farming areas, and who are or will be affected by coal mining and the coal seam gas industry, I would like it noted on record that I do not support the proposed amendments or these industries in general, in PARTICULAR coal seam gas.

The proposed amendments do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas. In my opinion;

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings at a MINIMUM.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas. This should actually be a GIVEN, and I find it hard to believe that we would even place these areas at risk, no matter how small from industry.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

I would like to reiterate that I am extremely opposed to coal seam gas mining in general and believe that while government and industry continues to count profit, they are not considering the COST of these industries. I'm not talking about the cost of engineering, production, servicing, planning and so on; I'm talking about the COST of environmental damage in dollars and cents. I would like to provide this short video link to make this point very clear.

http://www.ted.com/talks/pavan_sukhdev_what_s_the_price_of_nature.html

Sincerely,

Alison Reid

srlup - Submission on the Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

From: Peter Bellew <petebellew@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 5:23 PM
Subject: Submission on the Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

I wish to make the following submission

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely

Peter Bellew

srlup - Draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

From: [REDACTED]
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 5:20 PM
Subject: Draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement **CSG exclusion zones**.

I refer to the above proposal and wish to make the following comments:

Exclusions should apply to all farming lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

There should be an **exclusion area around all dwellings/dwelling** sites of 2km minimum.

This should apply to **all forms of mining and all projects that have not yet commenced**.

Local Councils should have no powers regarding mining approvals.

There is **no provision in the approval process to assess social impacts and this should be altered**. Public opinion should count for something. Many people live in rural areas by choice. They don't want to be in cities/residential areas and have made the choice to live with often inferior infrastructure etc. They (including me) care about their surroundings, the air they breathe, the water they drink and the SERENITY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I don't want Government's moving the goalposts and making this a mining area!

I have received a grant for \$25,000 with the main aim of improving water quality. The Government has now approved mining that would degrade the water flowing through my property!!!!!!!!!! . This is ludicrous and shows that Government does not take the welfare and safety of the environment and it's constituents seriously!

I strongly oppose this and the previous Government's blatant disregard for the people of this State and their opinions AND the continued degradation of our land, air, water and habitats.

These decisions appear to be motivated by money and greed without any consideration for now or the future of the population or the land, water, air.

Please make wise decisions for the future of the planet not your pockets!!!!!!!!!!!!11

Please with-hold my name and address

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

srlup - Submission: Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

From: sofie loizou <missmemory@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 5:15 PM
Subject: Submission: Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

To: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

I am deeply concerned with your current proposal to allow CSG mining to invade our food growing regions and water catchment areas. Here is my submission.

- 1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 100km buffer around all residential dwellings.**
- 2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.**
- 3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.**
- 4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.**
- 5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.**

I am not happy with the fact the government is even entertaining the idea that coal seam gas mining is a good idea, particularly when countries like Germany have been able to commit to not only decommissioning all their dirty power (fossil fuel) use, but also to replace it with renewable forms of energy, proving that this is not only possible, but essential for Australia to do the same.

I will continue to argue and fight for coal seam gas mining to be eliminated from Australia and hopefully in time, you will see the utter incomprehensible damage that will be your legacy to this country and its future inhabitants if you continue to allow CSG mining to take place.

Sincerely,

--

Sofie Loizou
NSW, Australia

Dear The Director Strategic Regional Policy,

I would just like to let you know that my family and me completely disagree with the plans for mining. We just went camping on the Easter weekend and it was the best camping trip we had ever gone on; we where talking to some locals and they brought up the fact the Government wants to make mines in this area. We were completely horrified by the fact that you completely disregarded the fact that

1. It is a beautiful ecosystem that will be ruined with your new “renovation idea”
2. That many people go camping to these areas to make memories and have fun
3. That FAMILIES AND CHILDREN live in these areas and they will be extremely affected by the mining facilities.

I am sure that you would rather grow up in a beautiful environment than a mine. Think about how unfair this is to everyone else whose goal in life isn't just to make money even if it means making the world worse but to actually take in the worlds beauty; you are destroying that.

So please understand that you are not just affecting the safety and wellbeing of the animals and plants in the area but also real people just like yourself.

Yael Grunseit, 13 years old, Sydney

srlup - Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP)

From: "Param (Daniel) Berg" <danielparam@yahoo.co.uk>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 5:01 PM
Subject: Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP)

Dear Sir or Madam

I totally support the campaign by Lock the Gate to have policy amended as follows:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Berg, retired driver
Mullumbimby, NSW

srlup - Draft Mining SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

From: Katura Kattun <katurakattun@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 5:00 PM
Subject: Draft Mining SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

The Director,
Strategic Regional Policy,
Department of Planning & Infrastructure,

10/4/2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

I do not consider that the Coal Seam Gas Mining Industry is currently correctly regulated to take into consideration the dangers of this industry to the health of Australia's population and the conservation of our land and wildlife.

I believe that proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy to implement CSG exclusion zones, should include the following:

1. At least a 2km buffer zone around all residential dwellings.
2. Local councils should have the right of say in what areas should be protected.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should also apply to all projects that have been approved but not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.
5. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to include coal mining, and all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

K. Stevens,
The Oaks, 2570

srlup - The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

From: Kate Genders <kateisnow@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 4:57 PM
Subject: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find below my concerns and recommendations for the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings Excluding those living in rural and remote areas is not right and needs to be amended to reflect that all residents have a right to clean water and a quality of life not impacted on by the effects of the CSG Industry.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas. Councils are far more in touch with their region than government representatives making decisions for people and areas far removed from them.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas. Not negotiable. Anything less is sheer madness or hypocrisy.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas. We need to pay attention to what is happening elsewhere in the world in regards to environmental and public health disasters post introduction of gas mining. Clean and renewable energy options are the way forward. Anything else is madness and completely dangerous and irresponsible.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Please give consideration to the concerns of myself and all others making contact re this issue.

Kate

srlup - Draft Amend. to SEPP

From: "Doug Kolisnyk" <kolisnykdc@ozemail.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 4:51 PM
Subject: Draft Amend. to SEPP

- a. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
- b. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
- c. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
- d. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
- e. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Doug Kolisnyk
10 Hudson St. Whitebridge
NSW, Australia 2290
02 4944 77147
0439 928 798

srlup - Coal Seam Gas

From: "Gillian James" <gillwoll@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 4:41 PM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas

Director
 Strategic Regional Policy
 Dept. Planning and Infrastructure.

I support the inclusion of the Wollombi Valley in the Cluster for Viticulture for the Lower Hunter. There is recognition by the State Government of NSW of the Wollombi Valley where I am a permanent resident, as a wine growing region.

The State Government, through Destination NSW, supports Sculpture in the Vineyards with grants from its Regional Flagship Event Programme in 2012 and 2013. Sculpture in the Vineyards occurs in vineyards in the Wollombi Valley attracting many visitors who also sample vineyard products.

Cessnock Council supports the inclusion of the Wollombi Valley as an integral part of the Lower Hunter wine growing region and is recognised by Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourism.

Cessnock Council Meeting of 4 April 2012 resolved that:

1. Council write to Minister for Resources and Energy the Honourable Chris Hartcher

Seeking exclusion from the issuing of extraction licences from the Vineyards district including Wollombi Valley and Bow Wow Creek Gorge

Seeking the refusal of the renewal of Petroleum Exploration Licence 267 from the entire LGA, or areas within it, including the Vineyards district, and Wollombi Valley and Bow Wow Creek Gorge.

To request that the Minister gazette, in accordance with Section 9(a) of the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991 an exclusion from granting petroleum titles for production in the Vineyard District of the Lower Hunter.

That Council write to the Minister for the Hunter, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Agriculture, the NSW Water Commissioner and the Minister for Water Resources and Energy seeking support for Council's request to have CSG excluded by gazettal from the Vineyards of the Lower Hunter.

Wollombi Valley is not connected to the Cessnock City water supply. We are reliant on our own water facilities. Consequently there is much anxiety about the impact of coal seam gas exploration on our underground aquifers.

In closing, The Convict Trail Project which proceeds along 240 kilometers of the Convict built Great North Road, proceeding to the Wollombi Valley from Wisemans Ferry via Bucketty, Laguna, then to its World heritage listed gateway section into the Conservation Area of Wollombi itself, received \$20,000 from the Federal Government for a soon to be launched GPS SMART PHONE APP to

provide visitors to the Great North Road region with a more immersive experience with its realistic sound and special effects. This was launched by the Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon on March 2 this year.

I believe coal seam gas exploration in the Wollombi Valley will seriously compromise the environment and visual significance of the historic Great North Road and its Convict monuments, including the intrusive installation of coal seam infrastructure, adding a threat to the our underground water supply with its documented requirement for water and disposal of generated waste.

The Wollombi Valley should be acknowledged and included in the Lower Hunter Wine growing region and excluded from coal seam gas exploration.

Gillian James
Narone Creek
Wollombi.

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: Kimberley Jones <kimberleygj@yahoo.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 4:19 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

To the Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

In relation to the draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Your sincerely
Kimberley Jones
Sydney NSW

srlup - CSG EXCLUSION ZONES

From: "John&Kaye Boyle" <jkboyle@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 4:03 PM
Subject: CSG EXCLUSION ZONES

The Director Strategic Regional policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Dear Sir

Please note the following re: CSG Exclusion Zones

- 1.The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for Councils to list new prohibited areas.
- 2.The SEPP amendments should be widened to include a 2km buffer around ALL residential dwellings.
- 3.The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply coal mining to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
- 4.The provisions should include exclusion zones for all identified food production areas, sensitive environmental lands and water catchment areas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thanking You

JOHN & KAYE BOYLE
19 Nugget Street
Diggers Camp NSW 2462

srlup - proposed CSG exclusion zones - Public feedback

From: "Bronwyn Sartori" <bronsartori@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 3:54 PM
Subject: proposed CSG exclusion zones - Public feedback

Good Afternoon

I am writing to offer my public opinion on the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

I do not think these amendments go far enough and having the loop hole that allows council to veto the policy if it so desires, just seems ridiculous to me. I believe amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings. In fact I'm not convinced that 2km is actually far enough

It is of vital importance that the provisions include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas. And the SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

Kind Regards

Bronwyn Sartori

42 Milson Street

Charlestown NSW 2290

srlup

From: Quinn De Rosa Pontello <q.derosapontello.10@student.scu.edu.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/04/2013 3:52 PM

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

In regards to the;

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

This is an insult to small communities and the flora and fauna of Australia. With limited water how can it be that a handful of greedy people in power can risk the future and health of this land and it's people and the livelihood of future generations?

What are the consequences of all this greed?

There is no need for Coal seam gas mining here or anywhere! Renewable energy is the key to a sustainable future for those present and those to come.

Greed and power will not rescue the health of sick children, a sick planet, sick water... short term greed equals long term loss and suffering to those in power and the masses. Prevention is better in cure.

Coal seam gas must be banned for good.

Kind Regards
Quinn de Rosa Pontello

srlup - Submission Coal seam gas residential exclusion zone SEPP amendment

From: Fliss & Julius <flissjul@tpg.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 7/04/2013 10:14 PM
Subject: Submission Coal seam gas residential exclusion zone SEPP amendment
CC: <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>, <"office"@premier.nsw.gov.au>

Julius Timmerman & Felicity Grover
 22 Wilson St
 Lawson NSW 2783

RE: *Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013*

To:

The Director Strategic Regional Policy

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,



We are residents of the Blue Mountains and welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposal:

<!--[if !supportLineBreakNewLine]-->

<!--[endif]-->

Overview

Coal seam gas mining is a high-risk, highly-polluting industry - this has been well-documented in Australia and overseas. There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining. The 2-kilometre residential exclusion zone does not necessarily protect all of the population against any damaging effects created by CSG mining since the definition of residential is not clear.

The change does not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester.

The SEPP does not take into account any impacts of CSG mining operations within water

catchment areas, including in Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Special Areas.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee."

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments.

We feel very strongly that CSG mining should cease altogether as it clearly creates too much damage to the environment and does nothing whatsoever to avert climate change. The NSW Government should put more effort into clean energy proposals. However we make the following key points and recommendations regarding the SEPP draft amendment:

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high

conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.

7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

<!--[endif]-->

Liz Wright
22 Rowena Road
Narraweena, NSW 2099
7 April, 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of a city electorate but I am concerned about mining and coal seam gas exploration both in the city and on valuable and irreplaceable agricultural land. I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed change in policy.

Concern is increasing across Australia about the risks of coal seam gas exploration and the damage it and other mining might cause to the environment. Only this weekend there was an article on the front page of the weekend Australian about the risks to unique agricultural land on the border of Queensland and the Northern Territory, should coal seam gas exploration happen in that vicinity.

The NSW Government is to be commended for its plan to amend the mining State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) to set controls and a buffer zone to stop the development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters (horse studs and vineyards). Unfortunately this does not go far enough!

It is essential that the state's drinking water sources, state conservation areas and other public lands are protected from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The public expects the government will protect, on their behalf, the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is not conservation!

Please ensure that the following points are incorporated in any amendments to the SEPP

- Protection for our **drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and significant natural environments, such as national parks.**
- Protection from not just coal seam gas exploration, but coal mining and exploration or extraction of other gases.
- Before any further CSG exploration, **a comprehensive study of the health impacts of CSG** be undertaken to ensure we are not putting NSW citizens at risk. This study should also include the effects of emissions from CSG exploration outside the 2 km exclusion zones.
- **Exclusion zones for CSG exploration should be extended** to protect all water catchment areas in the state.

Please take my concerns seriously, as I believe similar views are held by the majority of NSW residents.

Yours sincerely

Liz Wright

From: Margaret Jaffé<m.jaffe@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 7/04/2013 5:21 PM
Subject: C.S.G.

Dear Sirs,

Coal seam gas is dangerous to farming areas, water catchment areas and natural areas that are home to our native animals.

A two kilometer exclusion zone is not sufficient to protect these areas.

Please increase this zone and also do more research on the dangers of coal seam gas.

sincerely,

Margaret Jaffe

srlup

From: "Michelle Hinwood" <michellehinwood@optusnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 7/04/2013 10:03 AM

I live on the NSW Central Coast and our main water supply comes from dams and underground aquifers in our region. There is evidence that CSG could compromise these aquifers and the pipeline connecting our dams. There must be no CSG allowed in our region. Michelle Hinwood, Niagara Park

srlup - Draft Mining SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

From: "Linda Lowton" <lindal38@optusnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 7/04/2013 9:33 AM
Subject: Draft Mining SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

Good Morning

I wish to make a comment about the CSG Exclusion Zones 2013. I live at Gloucester on a small acreage and strongly oppose the fact that Gloucester is not included in this exclusion as I believe Federal Approval was hurriedly determined very shortly before this new amendment was released.

If the Government now understands there are risks to peoples' health and also to the water in a gasfield, why should the gasfield at Gloucester be allowed to go ahead when, should the water become toxic, it would affect up to 75000 people.

Linda Lowton

Gloucester

srlup - Submission for SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

From: Martin Robinson <robinasm@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 6/04/2013 9:54 PM
Subject: Submission for SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

Martin Robinson
 6 Warrumbungle Place
 Bow Bowing 2566
 6-4-2013

Submission on Draft Mining SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

i) Zone R6 Scenic Protection should also be included in Schedule 3, for the following reason.

Giving control of local matters back to Councils is a spurious argument, when the State Government has usurped local Council control by declaring the CSG industry a "State Significant" development. The NSW Coalition government says that local councils know best about their local environment and conditions. That is true. That is why the Campbelltown Council has declared the Scenic Hills area of Campbelltown, Zone 6 Scenic Protection, and has been so declared since 1973.

If the Coalition really believes that councils should have local control, then Zone 6 Scenic Protection Zones should be included in the amended SEPP along with Zone R5U in Schedule 3, as this has been the Council's wish since 1973.

ii) I wish to make a **strong** objection to the proposed Clause 9A, Parts 2 and 3.

These parts should *be removed from the amendment* for the following reasons

Allowing Council to omit areas from the exclusion zones would be a process open to corruption. Councils could come under pressure from State Government to provide these exceptions and have them added to Schedule 2. As well as undue pressure from government, councils could be offered financial incentives from the mining industry to have areas added to Schedule 2.

We have seen over past years, a number of councils being dismissed (Liverpool and Wollongong as an example) for having corrupt dealings with developers. If these parts are allowed to be included in the amendment to the SEPP, then I can see in the not too distant future members of council/state government/mining industry being examined in ICAC over corrupt dealings for personal financial benefit.

An exclusion zone means just that....EXCLUSION. This cannot be done in degrees....it is either excluded or it is not. There is no in between. Allowing it to be so, will open the whole process up to corruption. We are seeing enough of that now in ICAC in NSW and will no doubt see more in Queensland after the revelations of the corrupt CSG industry approval process in that state.

I conclusion, the amendment must be valid. Exclusion cannot be in degrees. It is an absolute. You cannot be a partly excluded, just like you cannot be a partly pregnant.

Martin Robinson

srlup - CSG SEPP Amendment

From: Raymond Kennedy <rayhilken10@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 6/04/2013 9:31 PM
Subject: CSG SEPP Amendment

Raymond Kennedy

P.O. Box 38

Lawson 2783

The Director Strategic Regional Policy

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney 2001

Dear Sir, Madam,

I am a resident of Bullaburra, NSW and I would like to make a comment on the proposed SEPP draft amendment.

My main concern is the planned amendment does not extend to protecting prime agricultural land, State conservation areas and key water supplies and it does nothing to protect against other mining operations such as large coal mines.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development.

Your Sincerely

Raymond Kennedy

srlup - SEPP Draft Amendment

From: Ann Scully <ann.scully@southernphone.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 6/04/2013 6:57 PM
Subject: SEPP Draft Amendment

Dear Sir/Madam,

While the proposed amendment to the relevant State Environmental Planning Policy, which includes a 2km exclusion zone around residential areas and critical industry clusters, is a step in a positive direction, it fails to take into account the need for further environmental protections to safeguard our drinking water, our health and our conservation and agricultural lands.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the State open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester.

Key points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment:

1. There is a risk of exploitation in the council 'opt out' clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to powerful vested interest lobbying and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
2. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. Proposed amendments to the SEPP do nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The Government should enact policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
3. Given the risks to water resources (IN AN ARID CONTINENT LIKE THIS ONE), the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into its human and animal health impacts, and the impacts on aquifers, groundwater and the Great Artesian Basin has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
4. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG exploration and extraction in or near the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchment areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across NSW.
5. Exclusion zones should include protection for out public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
6. EXCLUSION ZONES SHOULD ALSO PROTECT OUR CRITICAL FARMLAND BY PROHIBITING THE EXPANSION OF COAL MINING AND UNCONVENTIONAL GAS OPERATIONS ON PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL LAND.
7. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not require the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and independent monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
8. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and

runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.

The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment

From: Brenda Green <brenda.green1@me.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 6/04/2013 3:05 PM
Subject: Protect the Pilliga from CSG

Please use your common sense in this issue and stop CSG Processes. Let me assure you I do not often take to writing emails to government , let alone to a member from another jurisdiction. Tragically individuals in government still do not realise that money is more important than the future of the land. How dare the NSW government and others believe they have the power to allow companies the permission to remove the natural resources belonging to all Australians, particularly the indigenous people. We are all custodians of the land and do not have the right to play god with such vital resources as WATER.

Brenda Green
Darwin

Sent from my iPad

srlup - CSG Submission

From: [REDACTED]
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>, <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzar...>
Date: 6/04/2013 2:48 PM
Subject: CSG Submission

The Director Strategic Regional Policy,

Department of Planning and Infrastructure,
GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001

Re: CSG exploration and production submission.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing today to highlight the dire need for strengthened laws regarding destructive industries, including coal seam gas extraction. I take this opportunity to voice my absolute opposition to the coal seam gas industry, this industry is posed to be the largest threat to our aquifers, our lands & to food security that this country has ever seen.

Whilst I support an exclusion zone around residential areas, horse studs and vineyards, I consider two kilometres to be completely inadequate & that any exclusion should extend to all private property, regardless of density or status. Considering the massive, permanent environmental & social impacts, it is my view that all landholders must be given the legal right to deny access to CSG/mining prospecting/operations.

The CSG industry has been unwantedly forced upon the people of Australia, approval processes are highly corrupt & environmental assessments rubber stamped, all levels of government should be deeply ashamed & should be actively striving to eliminate such unacceptable behaviour from bureaucratic systems.

Considering the massive unchecked emissions from the CSG industry, such as methane, a key driver, are significantly contributing to anthropogenic climate change - potentially threatening life as we know it, even humanity itself, I believe that there should be No further CSG/fossil fuel energy approvals in Australia & that all existing coal/CSG/Shale/Nuclear energy based operations should be phased out in favour of renewables, such as large scale solar & wind.

Please consider this as my public submission on the *Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013*.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(I would like my details kept private)

srlup - MINING NSW - CSG - SCHEDULE 1 CLAUSE 9A (2)

From: carl ronge <cronge@live.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 6/04/2013 1:00 PM
Subject: MINING NSW - CSG - SCHEDULE 1 CLAUSE 9A (2)

TO THINK THAT ANYONE COULD COME UP WITH THE IDEA OF HANDING THIS TYPE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO A COUNCIL NEEDS THEIR HEAD READ AND SHOULD NOT BE IN THE POSITION THEY ARE IN IF THAT'S THE BEST THEY CAN DO. LOOK AT WHAT WE HAVE IN NSW WITH THE PRESENT ICAC INQUIRY AND WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY HAD WITH WOLLONGONG AND OTHER COUNCILS THAT HAVE HAD ADMINISTRATORS APPOINTED. LOOK AT THE QUALIFICATIONS THESE PEOPLE HAVE. THEY ARE LOCALS AND SOME COUNCILLORS USING IT ONLY AS A USING IT AS A PLATFORM FOR A STEP UP TO STATE POLITICS. YOU ONLY NEED TO TAKE A LOOK AT OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. OUR COUNTRY IS BEING GOVERNED BY A GROUP OF UNION DELEGATES AND THAT INCLUDES OUR PRIME MINISTER. THIS IS JUST NOT ON AND TOO OPEN TO CORRUPTION.

THE ONLY MINING (CSG) THAT TAKES PLACE IN NSW IS THAT WHICH IS FAR AWAY FROM ANY AREA OF RESIDENTIAL, FARMING & GRAZING, AGRICULTURAL OR ANY OTHER LAND WHICH IS SIGNIFICANT FOR OTHER &/OR IMPORTANT USES FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY.

ANY MINING ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD OCCUR OUTSIDE THE ABOVE EXCLUSION ZONES SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THIS COUNTRY'S USE ONLY AND CERTAINLY NOT FOR EXPORT. SHOULD NOT BE FOREIGN OWNED BUT FINANCED HERE. THE MONEY CAN BE FOUND IF POLITICIANS PUT THERE HEADS TO IT AND NOT THINK OF A QUICK SOLUTION WHICH RESULTS IN MORE MONEY IN THE COFFERS TO MAKE THEMSELVES LOOK GOOD BEFORE AN ELECTION COMING UP.

PLEASE READ ALL OF MY EMAIL AS I HAVE TAKEN THE TIME TO LOOK THROUGH AND READ THE PLANNING PROPOSALS.

THANKING YOU

BARBARA RONGE

srlup - comment on draft SEPP (MPPEI & CSGEZ) 2013

From: gabrielle ryan <gabrielleryan73@yahoo.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 6/04/2013 10:27 AM
Subject: comment on draft SEPP (MPPEI & CSGEZ) 2013
CC: "office@premier.nsw.gov.au" <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, "office@hazzard..."

6 sea breeze place
 boambee east
 NSW 2452

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I live on the mid north coast of NSW and I am writing with further comment and concern about the proposed amendments to the *Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013*.

In my mind the proposed changes are still grossly inadequate as they do not include impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. Allowing CSG development to occur within built-up areas that may not be zoned as 'residential', such as Fullerton Cove where 86 families live within a 2km radius of the proposed drilling, is extremely risky.

The SEPP does not take into account any impacts of CSG mining operations within water catchment areas, including in Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Special Areas. The Apex CSG project in the Illawarra escarpment will be drilling close to three key water catchments including the SCA Woronora Special Area, which provides water for the people of Sydney and Wollongong.

To extract CSG, millions of litres of water are pumped from deep beneath the earth, threatening ancient aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee"¹.

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to "opt out" of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. While

empowering local councils to have a say on development is inherently a good idea, this clause would allow gas companies to circumvent the safeguards by pressuring councils to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment.

Key points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment:

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

¹ Source: www.australiancoalalliance.com/Information/Woodbury%20Park%20Rally.mov.

I am very concerned that it is on such a consistent basis that the interests of big industry are put before the

interests of the community at large. We need to protect our vital agricultural production lands as importantly as we need to protect what pristine wilderness areas we have remaining - let alone our community well being and livelihoods within residential zones. When will common sense prevail and ludicrous pandering to the pockets of the mining sector end???

I want a country that can still provide for its people - not a wasteland which relies on foreign imports of substandard produce for my family and generations to come.

Please see sense and make the changes required to sustain our communities for the long term, not the mining industry for the short term!

Yours sincerely,

gabrielle ryan
02 6658 7470

srlup - Coal seam Gas mining

From: Peter Nicholas <pnwillisn@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 6/04/2013 8:56 AM
Subject: Coal seam Gas mining
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

Peter Nicholas.
 28 Jervis St Nowra
 NSW
 6 April 2013

Dear Politicians and Planners.

I write as a very concerned nonagenarian who should not have to harbour negative feelings that you young people acting for the good of our land [and planet]. But I do.

I beg you to consider very, very seriously that mining for profit with scant care for our continued well being now and in the future is absolutely stupid and immoral. Even treasonable. Hence I fully endorse the appended submissions.

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.

8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.
11. All joys to you and yours
12. Faithfully
13. Peter Nicholas

SUBMISSION GUIDE

Coal seam gas residential exclusion zone

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Peter Nicholas

srup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

From: "Peter Green" <peter@pwgreen.id.au>
To: <srup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 5/04/2013 10:16 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Premier and Minister Hazzard,

Re : Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

I note with some pleasure your government's moves against rampant exploitation of coal seam gas.

However, as has been widely discussed, your plans are quite inadequate and need considerable further tightening. Existing approvals have apparently been quarantined from the new provisions and need to be reassessed, and you have not shown any awareness of effects on conservation areas, prime farmland or aquifers in non-urban areas. These are astonishing oversights. I make these comments as a qualified and experienced exploration geologist.

CSG is not a reasonable 'transition fuel' between existing fossil fuels and a suite of renewable technologies, due partly to the inability to ever control fugitive emissions. Its exploitation is removing the necessary focus on the development of a renewable energy economy, the only option for a truly environmentally sustainable industrial society.

It is also galling to most Australians, or at least to those aware of the situation, that, with 83% of the our mining industry foreign-owned, we inherit the persisting environmental damage while much of the short term profit disappears overseas. And, since these enterprises insist on a level of infrastructure over and above what they themselves build, we are seeing the privatisation of profits while costs are socialised. This is what one expects from third world countries lacking proper governance.

Furthermore, a truly perceptive government would recognise the overwhelming and undeniable scientific evidence of anthropogenic global warming, due to fossil fuel exploitation, and would move to phase out both coal and CSG. This would be done in concert with the relocation of subsidies from fossil fuels to renewable energy generation, and would involve the initial cessation of open cut thermal coal followed by underground. I assume that you and your fellow parliamentarians have families, and it beggars belief that you would not use the Precautionary Principle as your fallback position in the interests of intergenerational fairness.

Yours Faithfully,

Peter Green
 31 Taronga Way,
 Faulconbridge,
 N.S.W.
 2776
 4751 9474

"Anyone who believes exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist". - Kenneth E. Boulding (1996).

"Growth is the problem to which it pretends to be the solution". – Willian Grey, philosopher.

Democracy cannot survive overpopulation. Human dignity cannot survive it. Convenience and decency cannot survive it. – Isaac Asimov

A central problem is that, at its core, modern economics whether neoclassical or Keynesian has little interest in either social capital or the physical processes that underpin the operation of the market.

srlup - Atten: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

From: Dave Gibson <ceo@winninginitiatives.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/8/2013 11:10 PM
Subject: Atten: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

This is a submission regarding the CSG Exclusions zones in the state of New South Wels,

Suggested feedback points:

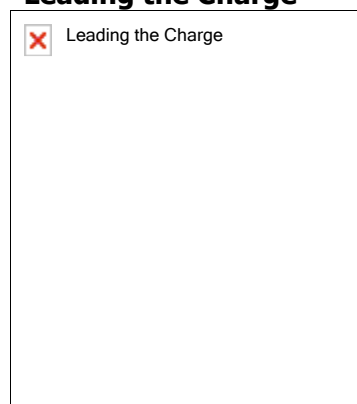
1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards,

--

David Gibson
Director
Winning Initiatives Network
0401 351 933
ceo@winninginitiatives.com.au

"Leading the Charge"



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srlup - Stop Coal Seam Gas Residential Exclusion Zone

From: Vivian Baruch <vivian@vivianbaruch.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>, <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/8/2013 11:16 AM
Subject: Stop Coal Seam Gas Residential Exclusion Zone

Ms. Vivian Baruch,

 69 St. Georges Cres,

 Faulconbridge, NSW, 2776.

Dear Director Strategic Regional Policy, Mr. Barry O'Farrell & Mr. Brad Hazzard,

I am a resident of Faulconbridge NSW and I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed SEPP policy.

I believe there is a pressing need for clear, comprehensive, state and nationally standardised safeguards against coal seam gas and other destructive mining.

The need for safeguards against coal seam gas and other destructive mining are as follows:

1. Despite the positive step of prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters so as to protect urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG, it appears that this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
3. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
4. The proposed amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.

The current SEPP draft amendment could be strengthened in the following ways:

1. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This omits tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.
2. Please remove the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. There is a risk of exploitation of this clause. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption.

3. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
4. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
5. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
6. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.

I look forward to your taking positive action on the above points.

Yours truly,

Vivian Baruch B.A., M. Couns., CMCAPA; PACFA Reg,
 Counsellor, Psychotherapist, Relationship Coach, Supervisor
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srlup - Request to strengthen SEPP draft amendment

From: Prue Blennerhassett <p.blennerhassett@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/8/2013 4:23 PM
Subject: Request to strengthen SEPP draft amendment
CC: "office@premier.nsw.gov.au" <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, "office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au" <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

Prue Blennerhassett
 3/7 Oceanside Place,
 Suffolk Park, NSW 2481

Monday 8th April, 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Northern NSW where the CSG debate has reached a climax in the past few months. It is an issue I feel very passionate about and I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near Gloucester in the Hunter Valley where I have holidayed.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. In fact I believe that funds have been raised so independent tests can take place in the families living in the Tara region so that the cause of their dis-ease can be proven.

To extract CSG, millions of litres of water are pumped from deep beneath the earth, threatening ancient aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water. I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments and the Great Artesian Basin from mining and gas development.

Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.

Yours Sincerely,

Prue Blennerhassett

E: p.blennerhassett@hotmail.com

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy

From: "Michael" <Mpetter2@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/8/2013 6:31 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy

The provision that "local councils will be able to opt out of the exclusion areas should they wish to do so" does nothing but open up councils to lobbying and the possibility of corruption by large mining groups. Do we really need another case for the ICAC in the future? I thought that the 2km zone said that "These will ensure heightened protection for residential areas and certain critical agricultural industries by prohibiting CSG activity within or close to these areas." not that the areas could still be open to mining if the council is lobbied by large mining groups such as AGL, that have money to spend on influencing the said council to change its mind.

Michael Petterson.

**Submission on Proposed Amendments to the
State Environmental Planning Policy Mining (SEPP)**

For The Director
Strategic Regional Policy
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure

email: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dr Wayne Somerville B.A.(Hons.), M.Clin.Psych., D.Psy, MAPS

Clinical and Consulting Psychologist

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Dr Wayne Somerville
79 Toonumbar Road
Kyogle NSW 2474

8 April 2013

The Director
Strategic Regional Policy
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
email: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir,

RE: Proposed Amendments to the State Environmental Planning Policy Mining (SEPP)

I am writing to argue for changes to the measures to regulate the coal seam gas (CSG) industry in NSW that were announced by Premier O'Farrell on 19 February 2013.

The NSW Government has experienced considerable difficulty in developing policy to regulate the CSG industry. The Strategic Regional Land Use Policies announced in 2012 were promoted as the "toughest CSG controls in the nation", but were widely understood by the public to offer no real protection from the risks to individuals, communities, and the environment associated with CSG mining. For instance, the Aquifer Interference Policy accepted that water tables are lowered by CSG mining, and merely suggested that mining companies make good the loss to farmers by trucking in replacement water, presumably from recycled CSG wastewater.

The inadequacy of the SRLUP was brought home to the general public when it became clear that there was nothing to prevent AGL from lateral drilling, fracking, and depressurising coal seams that ran under hospitals, schools, and residential areas in Western Sydney. The Premier's proposed amendments to the SEPP are an attempt to address the patently defective SRLUP policies.

In my opinion, as currently drafted, the proposed amendments to the SEPP represent defective policy that is likely to exacerbate, rather than assuage, the community's concerns over CSG industrialisation. It is likely that this policy would further worsen social disruption and deepen public cynicism about politicians, while failing to provide appropriate protection from the dangers inherent in CSG mining technology.

I will argue that these policy defects could be effectively addressed with a straightforward revision of the proposed amendments to the SEPP.

Current Circumstances - The CSG Policy Challenge

It is apparent that CSG policy makers are attempting to reconcile conflicting forces within the NSW Government.

Factions that support the centralised, authoritarian imposition of a coal seam gas industry onto unwilling communities have hoped that the passage of time and an unrelenting mining industry advertising campaign would cause the public to tire of the issue and, as suggested by Minister Hartcher, come to accept CSG "as they accepted uranium mining". Nonetheless, supporters of the CSG industry confront a different reality.

Dr W Somerville
Submission on SEPP Amendments

The essential problem for political supporters of the CSG industry is that the truth about this untested mining technology is out, and the public knows it.

According to a recent Fairfax Media/Nielsen poll, in NSW 75% of Coalition voters and 73% of Labor voters oppose coal seam gas exploration on agricultural land.

The Deputy Premier of NSW, Andrew Stoner, showed that he understands the truth about CSG when he recently declared: “I wouldn’t want a CSG well five metres from my property. It’s going to affect my property value a hell of a lot. Nobody is going to want to buy that value, ah that piece of land rather, um, and there’s always the potential for something to go wrong, so I understand why people are concerned.”

The science is rapidly catching up. The tide of scientific research is swelling and the findings are going only in one direction. The CSG industry can no longer argue from a lack of information that CSG mining has no negative impacts on the well-being of individuals, communities, and the environment.

Scientists from Southern Cross University measured atmospheric pollution in CSG gas fields in Queensland and found massively elevated levels of methane and radon venting into the atmosphere, not only from wellheads but across the landscape. The findings of elevated levels of fugitive methane and radon indicate the presence of other toxic coal seam gases, and provide a credible mechanism for the negative impacts on human and animal health associated with living near to CSG gas fields.

These scientific findings are not going to go away, and it seems inevitable that further research will strengthen the conclusion that horizontal drilling and depressurising of coal seams is a fundamentally unsafe and unsustainable technology.

The Proposed SEPP Amendments

The proposed SEPP amendments demonstrate that the Government recognises that there are problems with CSG industrialisation, but they only offer improved protection for some politically favoured industries operated by wealthy citizens (i.e., racecourse breeders and winemakers), and for specific citizens who live in a “residential zone or future identified residential growth areas”.

It is clear that the proposed amendments offer only limited protections, and it seems inevitable that the public will come to see these policies as an essentially vacuous, even cynical, attempt to quell negative public opinion while the CSG industry is ramped up in NSW.

But not even agricultural areas with racehorse and winery operations are effectively protected. CSG industrialisation can proceed if miners satisfy additional bureaucratic requirements including: an Agricultural Impact Statement that addresses “potential impacts on the cluster”; the aforementioned Aquifer Interference Policy; “new community consultation requirements”; “updated and improved environmental assessment guidelines”; “a ban on the use of dangerous BTEX chemicals and evaporation ponds” (but no monitoring or account of BTEX and other toxic chemicals released from coal seams); and the mere re-labeling of “evaporation ponds” as “holding ponds”.

Some citizens are supposed to be afforded additional protection by a proposed restriction on CSG mining “on or under land in and within 2km” of yet-to-be-specified “residential zones” and “future identified residential growth areas”. This amendment is qualified by allowing Local Councils to opt out of this proposed restriction on CSG mining. This provision obviously establishes conditions conducive to potential corruption of Local Governments through political pressure and/or powerful economic influences.

The Problems with Proposed SEPP Amendments

The essential problems with the proposed SEPP amendments arise from the implications inherent in these policies, and the corrosive effects that these implications will have on public opinion, the reputation of the Government, and good governance in NSW.

In his press release on the changed rules Premier O’Farrell stated: “Families in residential areas should not have to worry about their quality of life being affected by the noise, visual impacts and other effects of coal seam gas mining.”

Like his Deputy Premier, Premier O’Farrell clearly understands that CSG mining has significant negative impacts on citizens, and he appears to be motivated by a desire to mitigate these harms. Nonetheless, the Premier’s honourable intentions are likely to be completely undone by the implication that the Government favours citizens who live in populated areas, and do not believe that other citizens deserve similar protection.

The obvious questions that citizens in rural electorates are asking include: “Why are urban residents more important than us?; Why are we treated like second-class citizens?; “Why does the Government favour wealthy wine and racehorse producers, but care nothing for beef and dairy farming, agriculture, tourism, and other rural enterprises?”

It is highly unlikely that the widespread and growing opposition to CSG industrialisation will evaporate, or even be diminished, as a result of the currently proposed SEPP amendments. This will have predictable social and political consequences.

Consequences of the Proposed SEPP Amendments

In my opinion, if the proposed SEPP amendments are adopted as currently drafted, the Government will ensure a worsening of the strife that CSG industrialisation is causing across the State, with no increased likelihood that this industry will be able to operate effectively and sustainably.

The already overwhelming negative sentiment of NSW people to the CSG industrialisation of rural areas will only increase, further undermining the Government’s reputation.

The inevitable decline of the LNG industry in Australia due to the high level of the Australian dollar, high domestic production costs, and cheaper overseas supplies, will continue, and increasing numbers of operators will withdraw from Australia to operate overseas.

There is nothing in the proposed SEPP amendments likely to alter these social and economic trends.

Some Policy Alternatives

I strongly urge Members of the Government to reconsider and re-draft the proposed SEPP amendments.

In my opinion, the well-being of citizens, the Government, and the mining industry would be best served if policy recognised coal seam gas mining as a potentially dangerous and destructive industrial process that has no place in areas where people live, work, or farm.

In my opinion, the best policy would emulate the approach of Premier Newman in Queensland, who declared entire regions, such as the Scenic Rim in south-east Queensland and the Felton Valley, out of bounds for CSG mining.

In my opinion, the next-best policy amendment would emulate Premier O'Farrell's policy of prohibiting wind farm industrialisation if any citizen who lived within 2 km of the proposed development objected. This policy demonstrates a humane concern for the health of people who might be exposed to noise from wind farms, and should serve as a template for CSG policy. Most people know that CSG operations create more noise, light, water, soil, and air pollution than wind turbines.

A number of benefits would result from re-drafting the proposed amendments so that CSG industrialisation would be prohibited if any citizen living within 2 km of the proposed development objected.

The Government would benefit because such a policy would demonstrate a commitment to an economic "level playing field" free of distorting favouritism, genuine concern for the well-being of citizens, and an ethical approach to promoting development that enhances and does not harm individuals, communities, or the environment.

Citizens would benefit by being protected from exposure to the environmental contaminants, loss of land values, degraded lifestyles, and diminished economic prospects that inevitably come with CSG industrialisation.

Gas mining companies would benefit because they could give up their inappropriate efforts to establish gas fields across productive, populated rural areas, and move to less densely populated areas more suited to such massive extractive industries.

In conclusion, I strongly urge members of the Government to seize the opportunity provided by Premier O'Farrell's call for a change in CSG policy, and re-draft the proposed amendments to properly protect NSW citizens.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss this submission or if require further information.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Wayne Somerville

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

8th April 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to place a submission on the proposed policy. I am a resident of Dungog, in the Hunter Valley and am seeing the devastating effects the CSG industry is placing on our neighbouring Gloucester Shire, as well as the proposal to mine for CSG at Fullerton Cove, Stockton.

I welcome the NSW government's response to the public's call for protection, with a plan to amend the mining SEPP to set controls and a buffer zone to stop the development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters (horse studs and vineyards).

This is a step in the right direction to protect urban areas that are zoned as residential and critical rural industries. But, the change does not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines. I have grave concerns for the proposal to mine near the Tomago / Fullerton Cove Sand bed, a major water source for the Hunter Valley, which could be devastated if this is allowed to go ahead.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. Allowing CSG development to occur within built-up areas that may not be zoned as 'residential', such as Fullerton Cove where 86 families live within a 2km radius of the proposed drilling, is extremely risky.

The SEPP does not take into account any impacts of CSG mining operations within water catchment areas, including in Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Special Areas. The Apex CSG project in the Illawarra escarpment will be drilling close to three key water catchments including the SCA Woronora Special Area, which provides water for the people of Sydney and Wollongong.

To extract CSG, millions of litres of water are pumped from deep beneath the earth, threatening ancient aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee"¹.

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to “opt out” of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. While empowering local councils to have a say on development is inherently a good idea, this clause would allow gas companies to circumvent the safeguards by pressuring councils to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment.

Key points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment:

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council “opt out” clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and

monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.

9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

Carol Pasenow
47 Myles Street
Dungog 2420

02 49923982
0427 607 491

I strongly support the banning of CSG mining near residences and agricultural land. However the draft exclusion zones do not go far enough – there should be no CSG mining anywhere. That should also apply to CSG mining which has already been ‘approved’ – i.e. the approval should be revoked.

It is an outrage that the NSW government is treating rural people like second class citizens. Why should city people get better treatment than country people? Such discrimination is despicable. And why should the horse and wine industries get special treatment? Vineyards do nothing but fuel the harm to society done by alcohol, whereas farms supply essential food and other products.

This is disgraceful public policy from an unethical government. Such discrimination will only lead to great anger and resentment if implemented. Does the government really think the people of country NSW will accept this discrimination? The liberal and national parties clearly don’t give a damn about country NSW. We need more people like Tony Windsor.

CSG mining involves obvious serious risks to human health via contamination of water that may be used for drinking, agricultural water, and the air. Country people should be protected from these risks just as much as city people. They should always be protected from CSG mining, and local councils must not be given the ability to override that. That’s why I strongly support the legislation to give the Australian Government greater powers to prevent mining activities from damaging Australia’s water resources. Control of mining should be done at the national, not local, level.

Farmers are not going to tolerate their local council imposing mining on them any more than they will tolerate the state government doing so. I think the people who work in mines on land where farms used to be are very weak – how can they sleep at night knowing that they have their jobs because farmers were kicked off their land? There would be more honour in being on the dole than participating in an industry which ruins the environment and destroys the livelihoods of others.

It is often said that mining creates jobs, however mining provides only a miniscule proportion of the total jobs in Australia, and damages other industries. A few thousand CSG jobs is nothing compared to the importance of maintaining Australia’s water resources.

One only has to look at media reports to see how angry people are with being kicked off their property by money-grubbing miners, or being made to put up with mining too close to them. There have been many instances of violent confrontation between farmers and miners in other countries.

Farming and mining cannot co-exist. That is a fantasy and it is nearly always mining companies or governments which pretend that they can – one hardly ever hears a farmer say that he or she can co-exist with a mining company.

As recent media reports have conclusively demonstrated, state governments of all persuasions have been delinquent, incompetent and dishonest in relation to mining. Coal seam gas mining is of no net benefit and should not be permitted to continue.

I have no confidence that any conditions imposed on coal seam gas mining will ensure that damage to water resources does not occur. I also have no confidence that any review of CSG mining by the so called chief scientist and engineer. The ‘chief scientist’ is not the best scientist – they are only a political appointee.

We only have one underground water system. There isn’t a spare one that we can do an experiment on. The science already shows that CSG mining poses a major risk to water resources. There isn’t any need for more so called scientific studies to see that CSG mining is a huge risk.

What is needed is some common sense and application of the precautionary principle, i.e. we can't be certain that CSG mining won't do a great deal of harm, therefore it should be stopped. If the chief scientist was any good they would already be calling for an end to CSG mining. To continue with CSG mining would be very reckless and unwise.

Australia will always need agricultural land and its existing water resources. Australia has never needed CSG mining. CSG mining is a short-term, short-sighted non-solution to Australia's energy needs, and it is certainly not a clean form of energy.

Solar energy and other renewable forms of energy are the answer. If people are considered about their electricity prices, they should turn their air conditioners off in summer and wear warmer clothes in winter. Most areas of Australia aren't very cold in winter anyway.

Ironically if more people supported Australia's wool industry by wearing woollen jumpers in winter instead of costing themselves money and creating a fire hazard by switching on heaters, there would be less need for the energy that the mining industry purports to be able to provide.

Barry O'Farrell did a political deal to put incompetent, and possibly drunk, shooters into national parks when there is an obvious risk of death to others in the parks. That shows that he has no moral compass. Mr O'Farrell has been also been spineless when it comes to addressing the damage caused by the alcohol industry – even when a young man was killed in Kings Cross in 2012 he still did next to nothing.

Mr O'Farrell brings the same weakness and lack of moral fibre to his approach to mining in NSW. It is a disgrace that he ignored public concern and outrage about CSG mining for so long, and continues to do so. The completely inadequate approach taken by the NSW Government to date underlines the need for better Commonwealth legislation in this area. Regulation of the rogue mining industry should be taken out of the hands of state governments as they have proven they are unfit for this task.

**Lesley Jane Killen
18/150 Wigram Road
Glebe NSW 2037**

Date: Monday, 8th April, 2013

To: NSW department of Planning at : srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

Re: Submission on SEPP amendment to coal seam gas exploration and production near residential areas

The New South Wales government has proposed an amendment to the relevant State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) in response to a public outcry over coal seam gas (CSG) exploration and production near residential areas.

This new amendment includes a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas and critical industry clusters. This is an excellent proposal: one that must need extended to protect and safeguard our drinking water supply, health, or conservation of environmental sensitive lands or agricultural areas.

This exclusion zone does nothing to protect or safeguard our drinking water supply, health, or conservation of environmental sensitive lands or agricultural areas under threat from coal seam gas mining exploration. These sensitive areas must be identified, audited and new SEPP amendment(s) drawn up, as a matter of urgency, to offer these critical production areas an exclusion zone as well.

Because there are no amendments to protect these critical and sensitive areas all NSW residents and visitors to NSW have a high risk of contamination from coal seam gas exploration. This is because these areas are exposed to contamination as are NSW residents and visitors because they will use contaminated produce.

Federally-funded health care supply, provided by all Australians, for NSW residents contaminated by coal seam gas exploration will escalate and our quality of life will decrease. Once the produce (water, food and land) is contaminated producers will be unable to sell their now contaminated products. This will affect all NSW primary industry which supply high quality locally produced food and water.

All residents of and visitors to NSW will risk their health through contact with contaminated water, food and land.

This is because water from unprotected supply areas – water catchment areas and dams with their fish stocks, forests, parks and farms will be polluted.

Continued / 2

Submission on SEPP amendment to coal seam gas exploration and production near residential areas continued:

Unprotected agricultural and farming areas risk pollution which will contaminate locally produced vegetable and salad crops. Dairy and meat producing areas will be contaminated. This includes land and livestock along with native flora and fauna that live in these affected areas. The livestock that supply our dairy and meat food will be contaminated when they eat contaminated grass and fodder. Their meat and dairy produce will become infected too.

When we enjoy our recreational activities we will walk or a drive through contaminated forest and nature conservation land areas – our health will be at risk. This will also affect the livelihood of off-road, sport, recreation lifestyle suppliers and users as well as tourism.

All these unique and critical areas require at least a 2 kilometre exclusion zone for our protection, as well.

The current SEPP draft amendment must be strengthened to include protection to all these critical areas. The SEPP must offer these sensitive areas the same protection from contamination by provision of 2 kilometer exclusion zones. I request that additional amendments be made to the SEPP to ensure the protection of all these areas.

It seems, under the current proposed legislation there is no doubt the exploration of coal seam gas will make money for the mining producers, who do not provide much taxation revenue within Australia. This means that mining of NSW coal seam gas production is at the expense of all NSW residents – the voters and taxpayers of NSW. We need and demand protection from ruthless exploration that does nothing to improve or enrich our lives and reduces the quality of quiet enjoyment of life.

Please include much needed amendments to ensure protection to all areas that supply our water, our recreation and our food. These new and additional SEPP amendments must protect and/or safeguard our drinking water supply, health, conservation of environmentally sensitive lands and agricultural areas.

Yours faithfully,

Lesley Jane Killen (Ms.)

Cc:

Premier Barry O'Farrell: office@premier.nsw.gov.au

Planning Minister Brad Hazzard: office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au

srlup - Feedback on draft amendment to state environmental planning policy

From: Cathy Gadd <gaddcathy@gmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 5:42 AM
Subject: Feedback on draft amendment to state environmental planning policy

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The proposed changes provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters.

However, they do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow council's to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining.

Key feedback & amendments should include :

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Cathy Gadd

Sent from my iPad

srlup - CSG exclusion zones

From: Ian Dunlop <igdunlop951@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 9:08 AM
Subject: CSG exclusion zones

Please remember that govt must value the requests & well being of Citizens before Corporations.

Dont't do something irreversible !

The following requests are from Citizens to protect all OUR futures & well being. .

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Ian Dunlop

Sue Wilmott
2805 Blackville Road
Blackville NSW 2343
9th April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Re: Submission regarding the proposed amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) Coal Seam Gas residential exclusion zone.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I applaud the New South Wales government's move to amend the relevant State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) to include a 2 km exclusion zone around residential areas, horse studs and vineyards.

However, this amendment stops short.

What we need from this government is a halt on the coal seam gas industry and thorough scientific peer review research until coal seam gas companies can categorically guarantee 'no harm' to our water, soils, health, fauna, flora and communities.

By excluding regional areas in the 2 km exclusion zone around residential zones, you risk placing rural communities in the category of "second rate citizens" if the same safeguards are not given to ALL areas equally and equitable throughout NSW.

As I live on the highly productive agricultural Liverpool Plains region of NSW I am well aware that low population rural areas are actually targeted by mining companies for coal seam gas exploration.

This therefore places agricultural regions at greater risk of the impacts of coal seam gas mining.

In fact, if a map of NSW is studied there is not much of our state left where exploration licenses for coal or coal seam gas mining have not been issued.

The whole state therefore needs added protections from the coal seam gas industry and, if anything, the government has a greater responsibility to protect and safeguard agricultural regions because it is in these areas where the state's food is grown.

In 2011 I attended a seminar at the University of Sydney "Agricultural soil and Mining".

This seminar dealt with the facts and greatly influenced my understanding of the environmental impacts of coal seam gas.

Associate Professor Stephen Cattle, University of Sydney Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources stated that the water debate has already started regarding agriculture and mining, but the soil debate hasn't really begun.

He said there was a need to quarantine our soils and the Liverpool Plains has the best soils in the country.

Issues posed by Coal Seam Gas:-

- Loss of arable land for life of wells
- Alter groundwater/aquifer depths and quality
- Fate of saline water or salts extracted from water
- Fate of soil and water pollutants used in the fraccking process.
- Will hamper farmers ability to produce the quantity of food we'll need into the future for our growing populations

Also at the seminar Dr John Williams, NSW Natural Resources Commissioner, Wentworth Concerned Scientists stated that there is a need to work out up front, where we can and cannot mine as our river systems plus our food and fibre production will be impacted by coal seam gas.

He stated our need for an integrated science based approach and legislative frameworks to do a lot better job than what has occurred in the past.

He stated we need good long term regional land use management planning including no go areas and we need to take a holistic approach to the issue of land management and land use.

Also at this seminar was Ross Done from APPEA- the Australian Petroleum and Exploration Association who believes that renewables are somewhere in the future as we don't have the technology or cost structure as yet so we need to develop the CSG industry.

Of course we know that this is what the industry would like us all to believe but is nothing more than deliberately false and misleading scare mongering tactics so they can pressure governments to fast track the coal seam gas industry.

Associate Professor Ruth Colaguri also spoke from the Medical School, Sydney Uni. Her life's work has been involved with chronic diseases that are generated in the environments where we live. These go hand in hand with environmental damage. She stated that at present we have to eat twice as much food to get the same nutrients as we did a generation ago.

She stressed the need to look after our soils for food growing and mentioned that the chemicals used in fraccking haven't even been assessed.

She stressed that health is the most valuable thing society has and emphasised the need for serious public debate into physical and mental health issues associated with mining and coal seam gas.

These speakers are leading experts in their fields and raised serious concerns as to the impacts of the coal seam gas industry. These concerns must be addressed.

As our representatives in government you have the responsibility to legislate to protect our most valuable assets-our soils, water and land.

Despite what the coal seam gas companies want us to believe, there **are** substitutes for energy but none for food and water.

Please go further with this legislation by halting the coal seam gas industry until they can prove without the slightest doubt that damage will not be done and set aside and protect by law our precious agricultural land and water resources in this state.

Yours sincerely
Sue Wilmott

40 Alice Street
Grafton NSW 2460

02 6643 4643

0438 893 390

lynette@lynetteegginsdesign.com.au

9 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Coal seam gas residential exclusion zone

I am a resident of Grafton in the Clarence Valley of NSW. I am a member of the Clarence Valley Conservation Coalition and the Clarence Valley Alliance Against Coal Seam Gas. I am a mother, grandmother and business woman, I have lived all my life in the Clarence Valley, (and 3 generations of my family before me).

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

Background

People across NSW are calling for the protection of local communities from the polluting, high-risk CSG/Unconventional Gas industry. The NSW government has responded with a plan to amend the mining SEPP to set controls and a buffer zone to stop the development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters such as horse studs and vineyards.

This is a step in the right direction, however the proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development. The policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including the massive gasfield planned for the Pilliga State Forest and the gasfields comprising more than 100 wells near the community of Gloucester.

The SEPP does not take into account any impacts of CSG mining operations within water catchment areas. There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects on residents are unknown. Allowing CSG development to occur in built up areas that may not be zoned as 'residential', such as the village communities in the Northern Rivers where many families live within 2km of proposed drilling, is extremely risky.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee" ¹.

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

¹ Source: www.australiancoalalliance.com/Information/Woodbury%20Park%20Rally.mov.

Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to “opt out” of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. While empowering local councils to have a say on development is inherently a good idea, this clause would allow gas companies to circumvent the safeguards by pressuring councils to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment.

The Government has not taken into account the massive community opposition to this CSG / Unconventional Gas Industry as a whole. Never in the history of Australia have so many people from all walks of life and political persuasion come out against an industry. I have witnessed first hand the severity of shock and disbelief that occurs when these mining companies invade rural communities, as happened at the Glenugie Test well site near Grafton.

Already the impact of this one drill site has split the community, caused breakups in families and illness from stress associated with living in some cases only 300m from the drill site. These communities do not come under the proposed changes to the SEPP and the 2km exclusion zones. How are these populated rural communities going to be protected from this industry?

Key points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment:

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy does not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council “opt out” clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas, state forests and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. Exclusion zones should also protect the spread out rural communities of rural NSW, which fail to be protected in the amendment.

9. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.

10. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.

11. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. **All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP** amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

Yours sincerely,

Lynette Eggins

Craig Linn
57 St Georges Crescent
Faulconbridge
NSW 2776

9th April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Submission on CSG Exclusion Zone Draft SEPP amendment

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a NSW resident, a father, and a grandfather to express my disgust at the failure of successive governments to adequately protect our state's land and water for future generations.

I have examined the public consultation draft of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013* and its associated documents.

The draft SEPP amendment constitutes a first step in the right direction but it is unfortunately deficient in many respects. Before setting out specific additions and changes required to address the deficiencies a few general observations are in order.

The draft SEPP amendment does not appear to have any worthwhile basis or rationale!

Health Basis? If the draft SEPP amendment was based on health issues then it would not disregard the health impacts of CSG and mining in general on people and animals on farms, farming homestead clusters, and small communities that do not qualify as Residential Zones. Does the government believe that the health of children and adults in these settings is in some way of lesser value or consequence? Similarly, if the exclusion zone proposals were genuinely health driven then previously "*determined*" CSG and other forms of mining would be subject to similar exclusion zones. Is the government seriously suggesting that simply because a mining approval was granted in the past that in some magical way there are no health consequences for those exposed now?

Environmental Basis? If the the draft SEPP amendment was based on environmental issues then it would not disregard the pollution and degradation by CSG of huge areas of land of high environmental value just because they do not qualify as residential zones. Further if the policy was based on environmental issues the draft SEPP amendment would not be so narrowly focussed on CSG, and fail to address the need for exclusion zones in regard to other extractive mining activities. In this respect a telling anomaly in the exhibition document set occurs in the *Explanation of Intended Effects* document. Here it is noted that mining development activity such as "*monitoring equipment*" and "*geological mapping and surveying*" is exempted from exclusion zones as it is deemed to be of "*minimal environmental impact*". From this, one must draw the conclusion that all other mining developments have non-*minimal* environmental impacts, but with the exception of those classified as new (not yet approved) CSG none of these mining activities are subject to exclusion zones. Strange, isn't it?

Political and Financial Basis? One rationale that does appear to drive the draft SEPP amendment is the desire to give voters in built-up residential areas (particularly key Western Sydney electorates) the impression that the Government is solving the CSG problem. Such a cynical "out of sight, out of mind" policy proposal, so narrowly focussed on just one type of mining in NSW, reflects very

poorly on the government's commitment to community health and environmental protection. Quite frankly, many I have spoken to about the policy are deeply insulted by its "throw the dog a bone" nature.

One must also draw the conclusion that a second rationale is apparently to ensure that land values in proposed *future residential growth areas* do not fall. If CSG industrialisation was to occur in these future "growth" areas then prospective buyers would be very thin on the ground indeed and this would not make for happy land developers. Some of a cynical bent might even think that this might in some small way perhaps constrain the flow of party political donations. Perhaps if some donations of significance were to be made by small mammals and snakes from the Pilliga Forest things would be different and they too would be granted an exclusion zone.

Specific Additions and Changes Needed

Too much is left out

Of all the failings of the draft policy amendment the greatest is what it leaves out. As a matter of urgency the Government needs to provide exclusion zones that protect:

- our water catchments, including the extended network of waterways that feed into them;
- our extensive groundwater systems;
- our productive agricultural lands;
- our areas of significant environmental value.

CSG is not the only problem

The draft policy amendment is far too focussed on one specific form of mining extraction, namely CSG. The policy amendment needs to be expanded to provide exclusion zones in relation to other extractive mining. Coal mining in particular is known to have very significant human health environmental impacts. It too should be the subject of exclusion zones.

Council Opt Out Provision Inappropriate

The draft SEPP amendment allows councils to "*opt out*" of the proposed exclusion zone protection, thus allowing CSG activity in areas that would under the draft be excluded. However, the draft SEPP does not (with the exception of possible R5/Village considerations) afford councils similar freedom to opt-out of the damage caused by CSG by seeking additional and extended exclusion zones as determined by them and their communities. This one sided "opt out" provision for councils has the potential to subject councillors to considerable pressure from powerful mining interests. This "opt out" provision should be removed.

Lack of Certainty

While possible R5/Village exclusion zones are discussed in the Frequently Asked Questions document the coverage is far from detailed and at times vague. As proposed such possible exclusion zones involve a long bureaucratic chain comprising Local Council, Department of Planning, and the Minister - with the possibility of a negative finding at any step in the chain. This is not good enough. All NSW residents deserve to know without doubt that their homes and a good measure of the surrounding land (including the strata below) will remain free from mining activity. The policy must give people certainty, as it currently stands no such certainty exists.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Linn

srlup - a submission on the draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

From: Rosamund Dallow-Smith <wild_gsmith@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 11:58 AM
Subject: a submission on the draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

Here is my submission concerning the SEPPS amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones.

Questions-

why does it not include a council's right to include additional areas for protection?

Why is there an option for a council to EXEMPT an area from protection-(why, if it's in the communities' interests?!Is this a political move?)

why is there no cover for other types of gas, than CSG?

why does your plan not include coal mining, an environmentally unsafe means of extraction for energy needs, damaging vital aquifers, and other water supplies- causing heavy pollution- e g in the Hunter Valley- see the health report from the region's health workers?mining disrupts and displaces communities, as workers are trucked in, and rents etc.rise.

why is arable land needed for food production given to the huge, rich mining companies?

Why are the exclusion zones benefitting those who own valuable horse studs, or wining interests- (Alan Jones? Tyrell's?Both vocal protesters against CSG !?)

1.but no protection for those living on farms and rural properties-who are not rich and influential?

2.where's the protection against CSG drills for those who provide protection for food growing lands?

3.where's the protection for drinking water catchments- in the driest continent on the planet?

4.for sensitive environmental areas?

There are no exclusion zones in your plan for the above.

So- who is this plan for,exactly?

The 2 km buffer zone is vital for 1.2.3.and 4.not just for the shock jocks and the established and well heeled wine makers.

Make your policies- and legislation- for the good of all- without fear, bias or prejudice.

The CSG industry has run amok- with no checks or balances visible.

Put the barriers in place- according to real needs- for clean water, clean air, arable,unpolluted land- and the good of all.

That's why you are in office.

R.Dallow-Smith

srlup - Coal seam gas residential exclusion zone - submission

From: "Mulla Villa" <info@mullavilla.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 12:11 PM
Subject: Coal seam gas residential exclusion zone - submission

Mrs Francisca Maul **9th of April 2013**
3174 great North Road
Wollombi 2325 NSW

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of the Wollombi Valley NSW, I've been an active member of:

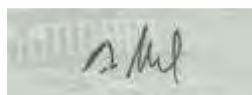
1. the Wollombi Progress Association for over 25 years and held during that time an executive position.
2. Hunter Region BEC as a volunteer director over 12 years
3. The Inaugural President Wollombi Chamber of Commerce.
4. Wine Country Tourism Inc on the board of directors for 10 years
5. Member of Cessnock BPW and was the President for 2 years.
6. Awarded in 1996 An Australia Day heritage award for opening Historic Mulla Villa to the public by Cessnock City Council
7. Been an active member of Friends of St Michael's Church of Wollombi, the oldest Catholic church on mainland Australia
8. Engaged in numerous community projects for the benefit of our local growing population.

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

I would like to point out concerns on the SEPP draft amendment.

1. The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments.
2. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales, keeping in mind I own the only convict built sandstone house in NSW, if our Valley isn't included in the exclusion zone this will greatly impact to this Iconic monument.
3. This policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
4. Mulla Villa had grape vines back in 1840 and we now have a large growing number of vineyards in our Valley and our Wollombi Valley should be included as a agricultural cluster to protect the growing industry and our cultural significance.

Yours sincerely,
Francisca Maul



Guesthouse Mulla Villa

3174 Great Northern Road Wollombi NSW

Phone: +61 2 4998 3254

Email: info@mullavilla.com.au www.mullavilla.com.au

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srlup - Draft Amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy-Coal Seam Gas exclusion Zones-2013

From: "Catherine Davis" <cwc.davis@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 2:54 PM
Subject: Draft Amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy-Coal Seam Gas exclusion Zones-2013
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

Catherine WC Davis
12 Watson Street
Bellingen NSW 2454

9/4/13

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001
Dear Sir/Madam,

As a retired biologist and paediatrician, I have grave concerns about activities which endanger the integrity of the environment for our and future generations of plants and animals, including humans. Emerging evidence suggests that the activities of Coal Seam Gas exploration and mining will likely have significant effects on aquifers and other aspects of the environment. Just restricting the mining to areas outside residential, industrial, or even agricultural boundaries would seem not to avoid the consequences. In fact, it would likely be catastrophic for remaining natural habitat in public lands, conservation areas and National Parks.

I often wonder whether this push for increasing mining energy resources (at the expense of our environment) is even necessary. Surely, continued and increased energy demands could be met by a more concerted effort to expand solar, wind and water power.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine WC Davis
cwc.davis@bigpond.com (Tel.0266559118)

srlup - Amendments to SEPP for mining

From: Jean Cooney <jeancooney@iprimus.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 3:22 PM
Subject: Amendments to SEPP for mining

Amended legislation re coal seam gas exploitation must provide stronger and real protection with buffer zones for water supplies and agricultural land throughout the State.

There are far too many loopholes at present in your proposals.

Best regards

Jean Cooney

Jean B Cooney
FREELANCE EDITOR
tel/fax: +61 (0)2 9328 1708
mobile: +61 (0)404 726 664

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From: admin <support@scrapltd.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
CC: <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 3:23 pm
Subject: CSG

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my opinion regarding Coal Seam Gas and the 2km exclusion zone and related matters recently announced by the O'Farrell Government.

It is my view that the exclusion zones (2km and horse/vineyard properties) is woefully inadequate. No CSG drilling should be permitted anywhere near key agricultural areas nor where sensitive aquifers are located.

Effectively this would exclude areas including the Pilliga and Gloucester where the industry is currently active.

75% of people across the political spectrum oppose the industry and put simply, if we properly embrace renewable energy alternatives it is clear that gas is not necessary.

This leaves the industry in a position of merely exporting for dollars at the expense of our groundwater and agricultural land. This is not an appropriate use of our resources and a completely myopic view of them.

It is clear that fracking is massively dangerous despite the propaganda of the industry. The recent 4 Corners report showed the failures of the industry not merely in terms of its actual industrial process but also in its lack of data collection and transparency. The deceit demonstrated by Santos in the media the day after the 4 Corners broadcast in which continual lying about the Queensland and NSW situations was obvious, especially when the CEO claimed that the drilling is not dangerous because it occurs deeper than bores for water is typical of the hubris of these people, do they think we are all morons?

It is imperative that the industry be placed under a total moratorium until, as Tony Windsor has sought the full scientific analysis is completed and we know comprehensively and state-wide the true position in relation to our water resources.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Carroll
Hazelbrook NSW

srlup - proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy

From: "Kathy McKenzie" <kmckmedia@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 8:48 AM
Subject: proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy

1. The time given for submissions for these amendments is not sufficient given that it was only three weeks including Easter.
2. Exclusion zones should be 2 kilometres from all dwellings
3. Exclusion zones should be 2 kilometres from all food producing properties
4. Exclusion zones should be around environmentally sensitive areas
5. Local councils should have the right to add areas to the exclusion zones
6. Coal seam gas mining should not occur over the Great Artesian Basin or in water catchments
7. The same should be applied for all coal mining and other types of unconventional gas mining
8. Developments not yet approved should be subject to these conditions

Kathy McKenzie

srlup - Draft NSW Government SEPP amendments

From: "Smith, Catherine" <Catherine.Smith25@det.nsw.edu.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 1:29 PM
Subject: Draft NSW Government SEPP amendments

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express my concerns over the above proposed SEPP. These include:

1. There is no protection for farms and rural properties, including vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
2. It fails to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection.
3. It doesn't cover other types of unconventional gas or coal mining.

I would like:

1. A 2-kilometre buffer zone around all residential dwellings.
2. Apply the amendments to projects approved but not yet satisfied condition so of approval, or commercial operations.

Thank you for your time.

Regards

Catherine Smith
English teacher

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain
privileged information or confidential information or both. If you
are not the intended recipient please delete it and notify the sender.

srlup - I am opposed to all CSG projects

From: Bruce McKelvie <mckelvie@yahoo.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 1:34 PM
Subject: I am opposed to all CSG projects

Dear Sir

I am writing to say that I oppose all Coal Seam Gas projects.

The evidence is very clear that CSG fracking is polluting both via the chemicals used in the fracking process which can pollute water tables and from leaked Methane gas, a potent greenhouse gas.

The full focus for our future energy needs should be entirely on clean, non polluting renewable energy sources, not more fossil fuels which increase atmospheric Carbon di oxide and causing climate change.

Yours sincerely,
Bruce McKelvie
Randwick, NSW

srlup - Submission to Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones.

From: linda wirf <lindawirf@yahoo.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 1:36 PM
Subject: Submission to Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones.

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure

I am writing to urge you to consider the following issues as part of the current **Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones.**

Recommendation: That the entire Northern Rivers region of NSW is included in the Coal Seam Gas exclusion zones currently under consideration.

The diversity & sustainability of agriculture in this region contributes substantially to a valuable and resilient local economy that brings wealth into the region and creates employment and training opportunities for our communities. Agriculture occurs in a range of diverse forms across the Northern Rivers and flourishes as a result of the clean water, fertile soils and favourable climate in the region. The Northern Rivers is an important and somewhat unique seat for knowledge and practise of the permaculture and organic growing industry and, as such, is as worthy of protection from Coal Seam Gas as the viticulture and equine industries.

Tourism brings billions of dollars annually to the Northern Rivers region. Much of this is eco- tourism which is dependent on the preservation of the pristine and beautiful natural environments that occur in this region. Destination NSW has just acknowledged the value of this industry by investing \$21.6 million dollars in regional tourism in the Northern Rivers. Eco-tourism is a long –term sustainable and economically valuable industry for the Northern Rivers region and would be potentially destroyed by Coal Seam Gas. One of the key features that sustains it is the large number of scenic drives through peaceful and aesthetic landscapes - these would be substantially undermined by the presence of gas wells and associated infrastructure, especially the presence of large numbers big trucks on small country roads.

The Northern Rivers has immense irreplaceable ecological value including world heritage areas and identified *refugia* ecosystems. Not only are these values vital to our tourism industry, they provide priceless environmental services such as fresh air, clean water and fertile soils. These values are substantiated by at least four UN treaties signed by the Federal Government of Australia.

Aerial maps show that the Northern Rivers comprises large and smaller towns, villages, intentional communities and small landholdings scattered across the region in such a way that there is no part of the region that is non- residential. There are very few places where any Coal Seam Gas well and associated infrastructure would not be within 2km of an

occupied dwelling. On this basis alone the entire Northern Rivers should be a Coal Seam Gas exclusion zone, as residents in this region are no less susceptible to the distress, disruption and potential health effects that support seclusion of residential zones in other areas of NSW.

Over 80% of residents in the Northern Rivers have strongly and clearly demonstrated that we will not consent to having our peaceful & productive lands and communities transformed into industrial wastelands by the Coal Seam Gas industry. There is clearly no social license for the development of a Coal Seam Gas industry in the Northern Rivers and this is another strong argument to create an exclusion zone around the entire Northern Rivers.

Yours sincerely

Linda Wirf

1057 Cawongla Rd

Larnook

NSW 2480

From: Christine Pearson <teen64@icloud.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
CC: "office@premier.nsw.gov.au" <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, "office@hazzard...
Date: 4/10/2013 1:41 pm
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

Sir,

I have supported the liberal party for the whole of my adult life and feel that my contribution below should be heeded if this State Government is to be able to continue its administration of this State and effectively undo the damage caused by the previous labour governments.

I am sure that it would much improve the acceptance by the voting public that this government is serious about protecting and conserving our water sources and agricultural lands if, and only

IF

1. The SEPP draft Amendment could be strengthened by backdating that aspect of the current amendment relating to the 2 km exclusion zone around residential areas - including therefore, all RECENTLY approved exploration and production leases in the areas encompassing Gloucester Valley for example. There are other areas very similarly affected!
2. These are areas where, in the case of the Gloucester Valley, three rivers run into the Manning catchment. Mid-Coast Water themselves are appalled that this could be allowed to happen in an area servicing the water needs of 75,000 People!!

CSG production and coal mining is proposed well within the 2 Km zone of residences and the rivers mentioned. Rocky Hill Coal Mine has not yet begun the work it intends, which will come very close to the local northern /southern railway line at Gloucester and well within 1Km!

Surely there must be some amongst State Government advisors who themselves can see this looming 'Achilles' heel for the Liberal State Government. Further safeguards are essential if our Liberal leaders are to have good credibility with the voting public.

Personally, I know our State needs money and the task will be huge to undo the damage that previous governments have caused in the rape of resources without due diligence BUT, please don't let this Government be accused of perpetuating such ignorance of the bigger picture, as has been the case under past administrations. I can't believe it is too late to undo something which is so obviously detrimental to some of the most beautiful areas we have in this country!

Christine Pearson
10 Craven Close
Gloucester. 2422
10th April,2013

srlup - Draft amendment to State Environmental Planning Policy (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones).

From: "Alice Beauchamp" <yourfriendalice@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 2:13 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to State Environmental Planning Policy (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones).
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

I congratulate the NSW Government on its enlightened amendment of the relevant Environmental Planning Policy, for a 2 km exclusion zone around residential areas and some industry clusters.

This is certainly a step in the right direction, but it still needs strengthening for vital stronger protection of our health, our drinking water, our agricultural lands & our environment. Other industries also need protection. Having made a start, and listened to the community, there is hope for follow up.

Sincerely,

Alice Beauchamp
4/11 Little St., Lane Cove
Ph 9427 5577

From: John & Genevieve White <jpdwhite@gmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 2:19 pm
Subject: Submission on draft exclusion zones

There is a basic lack of justice that the arrival of a c s g well in or around private property can render such unsaleable without compensation .

People who have their only financial security in their small rural properties are worst affected.

If for instance a property is to have a well on it for each \$100,000 devaluation a payment of 10% p.a. Should be the compensation such that the property has an income which then replaces the value lost to some extent for resale purposes.

If gas companies are not viable enough to compensate land owners justly then they are not viable industries but rather plunderers of a resource. Yours faithfully John white.

srlup - CSG

From: "Noel & Rae Rostens" <rostens2@optusnet.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 2:32 PM
Subject: CSG

Coal Seam Gas exploration and extraction should definitely not go ahead until it is absolutely proved that it will not alter the safety of our water tables especially in the Artesian Basin.
There are safer methods of producing power such as wind turbines, solar power and maybe harnessing tidal power.
Rae and Noel Rosten.

From:
Ms Yola Walicka
7 Fairview Rd
Lawson NSW 2783
E: yolawa@exemail.com.au

7th April 2013

Attention:
The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Submission Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production And Extractive Industries);
Coal Seam Gas 2 km Exclusion Zones**

I am a resident of Lawson, Blue Mountains and I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

First of all I would like to commend the NSW Government on proposed amendment to the State Environment Policy (SEPP) on Coal Seam Gas exploration and production near residential areas, which includes a two kilometer zone around residential areas and critical industry clusters. This is a first step to the right direction of protecting the residential areas and critical rural industry. However I am concerned that this amendment alone is not sufficient in assuring safeguards in place that protect our drinking water catchments, the underground aquifers, our health and our agricultural and conservation lands. It also does not address the damaging impacts from other mining operations such as large coal mines.

The coal seam gas industry is aggressively sprawling around the State with the approval from NSW government. However there have not been done any comprehensive studies and investigation on the effects of Coal Seam Gas mining on health of people and animals (whether they be livestock or wildlife). There are reports that number of people, especially children, who live in the areas where there is CSG mining are suffering serious health issues and health conditions. The health of livestock is also suffering.

Furthermore, the farmers are very concerned about the effect of CSG on the quality of water, both the ground water and bore water coming from ancient aquifers on which they, as well as most of Australia, rely to live and to grow produce and livestock, food for our city folk. To extract CSG, millions of litres of water are pumped from deep beneath the earth, threatening ancient aquifers and producing enormous quantities of toxic waste water as well as leaving the place utterly desolate, damaging whatever little vegetation it might grow. This is a recipe for turning our land, our country into dry, unproductive desert. Is this a NSW Government long term plan for our country???

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that commonsense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee" (Source: www.australiancoalalliance.com/InformationWoodbury%20Park%20Rally.mov).

I am also extremely concerned about the coal seam gas mining taking place on extremely valuable agricultural land and the effect of the mining on this land which causes major degradation and devaluation if this land turning it into desert like wasteland. Once this happens there is no turning back and reclaiming this land and its fertility. The future generations could sue us for that.

Below are further recommendations to the SEPP amendment:

1. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
1. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
2. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
3. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
4. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
5. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.

6. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.
7. There is a risk of exploitation of the council “opt out” clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.

In conclusion, I recommend that the whole Coal Seam Gas mining industry, as well as other mining industries, be thoroughly reviewed for its impact on land, water, agriculture, health and life both human and wildlife and only then a decision made as to if and in what capacity this is to be allowed. As to economic value of coal seam gas and its contribution to Australian economy, I would like to say that this is false economy. For the little financial gain today from CSG you put at risk of destroying the Australian agricultural ‘food bowl’, quality water and iconic natural places. Money cannot buy this, this has been in million years of making and is to be passed onto future generations. When we make decisions we need to keep in mind the needs of future generations and future of humanity and life on Earth.

Yours sincerely,

Yola Walicka

Cc to :

Premier Barry O’Farrell: office@premier.nsw.gov.au

Planning Minister Brad Hazzard: office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au

srlup - submission

From: Bernadette Smith <bernadette2paint@yahoo.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 3:36 PM
Subject: submission
CC: Isabel McIntosh <isabelmcintosh@optusnet.com.au>

To whom it may concern,

I would like to make the following submission on the draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones:

There should be at least a 2km exclusion zone to protect all residential areas, schools, playgrounds and rural homes, agriculture and livestock, high conservation value flora and fauna habitat, water catchment areas for our drinking supplies, the underground water table, public recreation areas and a buffer for bushfire prone areas.

Yours Faithfully,
Bernadette Smith

srlup - Barry PROMISED !!!

From: "Marianne McMillan" <marianneinsydney@aapt.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 3:56 PM
Subject: Barry PROMISED !!!

**HELP SAVE BARRY FROM BECOMING KNOWN AS THE PREMIER WHO POISONED SYDNEY –
ENCOURAGE HIM TO FURTHER BAN ALL CSG AND LONG WALL MINING IN THE CATCHMENT AREA
OR HE WILL BE.**

Ms Diane O'Mara
2 Little Belmore St
Gulgong NSW 2852

12 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

I thank you for the opportunity to have my say on the above policy. However I am very concerned about many aspects of this draft policy. I live in a small rural community that is impacted by coal mining and I see few safeguards in the proposed amendment.

We are already losing our prime agricultural land, and having our surface and ground-water systems degraded by Coal and CSG mining. There has been no comprehensive study into the effects of CSG and yet the government is fast-tracking approvals. This will be seen by future generations as criminally negligent.

As the proposed 2 km exclusion zone only relates to residential areas and critical industry clusters it does not protect the following:-

- Our food (prime agricultural land)
- Water resources
- High conservation areas, iconic natural areas, travelling stock routes and areas adjacent to national parks. The Pilliga State Forest and the Goulburn River National Park with its absolutely beautiful Great Dripping Wall are superb examples.
- Cultural heritage sites
- Projects that are already under way are not covered in this draft policy. These must be held over until a full comprehensive study has been done on the effects of CSG mining.
- Public health is not protected as the new regulations do not extend to cover those emissions produced beyond the 2 km exclusion zone. Monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG operations and infrastructure

- Coal mining is detrimental to people's health by way of noise, dust , fugitive emissions, and fine particulate matter under 2.5 micrograms. None of these are addressed in this new policy.
- It is a matter of great concern that Councils will be able to waive the 2 km exclusion zone. This is a recipe for corruption and for wealthy companies to undertake extreme lobbying of this arm of government. This waiver should be removed.

Thank you for this discussion.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Diane O'Mara

srlup - The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

From: "Alandra K Tasire" <alandra@atdesign.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 3:59 PM
Subject: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

This submission is in relation to the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I would like the following issues addressed prior to any consideration of amendments.

The amendments;

1. Allow a giant loophole for councils to “opt out” of the exclusion zones, which makes them vulnerable to corruption and pressure from powerful mining interests. This is a highly unusual loophole for a SEPP.
2. Fail to protect agricultural land other than narrowly defined “critical industry clusters” – currently vineyards and horse studs.
3. Do not include a buffer zone around critical industry clusters, which will allow coal seam gas mining up to the boundaries of critical industry infrastructure.
4. Do not automatically apply to large lot residential or villages, leaving too much discretion with councils and Ministers as to whether these areas will be protected.
5. Fail to protect water catchments.
6. Do not apply to other forms of unconventional gas, such as tight sands and shale gas, which pose similar risks as coal seam gas.
7. Provide a back door for the industry to continue with “business as usual” in councils that are compliant with industry demands.

Regards

Alandra Tasire
39 Wellington Road Katoomba NSW 2780
PO Box 738 Katoomba NSW 2780
Ph: 0428 447 774

Andrea MacKay,
c/- 53/8 Birtley Place,
Elizabeth Bay,
SYDNEY NSW 2011
andreamackay10@gmail.com

The Director Strategic Regional Policy,
Department of Planning and Infrastructure,
GPO Box 39,
SYDNEY NSW 2001

12 April 2013

Dear Sir,

**DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
POLICY (MINING, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND EXTRACTIVE
INDUSTRIES) (COAL SEAM GAS EXCLUSION ZONES) 2013**

I. Issue

While it is commendable that amendments are being proposed to the Mining State Environment Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to reflect the risks associated with Coal Seam Gas (CSG) mining, I am extremely concerned that **the proposed legislation does not protect our precious water supplies and agricultural land.**

Under the proposed amendments, areas designated critical for horse studs and vineyards will be protected, and yet **the water that my family drinks and that future generations will rely on, and the agricultural land from which Australian food is farmed, would not be protected under the proposed legislation.**

Due to serious risks associated with CSG mining, the sizeable gaps in our knowledge of the environmental, health and socio-economic costs of extracting it and the catastrophic and inter-generational consequences should something go wrong, I recommend a number of changes to the draft of proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP, including buffer zones and exclusion zones around NSW water catchments and agricultural land.

II. Background

I am a mother of two small boys, and a homeowner and resident in the Sutherland Shire in Sydney. I support job creation, and am not anti mining in principle. CSG is however a matter of great concern for me, particularly since **my family's water comes from catchments in respect of which licences for CSG exploratory wells have been issued.**

In fact, **licences have been issued for 16 CSG exploratory wells in and around nearby water catchments** (<http://nccnsw.org.au/media/o'farrell-allows-drilling-sydney's-drinking-water-catchment>). Eleven of the 16 wells are in areas so protected that an individual can be fined up to \$44,000 for walking there, and yet CSG exploration has been granted there. Please refer to the following pdf for a map showing the CSG licenses issued in and around our water catchments - <http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=555871134447863&set=a.436410099727301.106080.368486989852946&type=1&theater>.

It has also been reported that **Apex Energy has plans of creating more than 150 CSG wells across the water catchment area between Sydney and Wollongong** (<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/plan-to-drill-150-gas-wells-across-water-catchment-20120906-25h3v.html>).

As a result I have a very strong interest in CSG mining and am very aware of the risks it can entail.

III. Comments

i.) The risks of CSG mining

CSG exploration and mining involves unearthing water that is high in salt and methane, and can contain toxic and radioactive compounds and heavy metals.

Scientists in Australia and worldwide tell us that Coal Seam Gas mining is risky. The risks include:

- **Fracking** – the process by which the gas is extracted - **can contaminate both surface and ground water with the water that's been unearthed, namely salt, methane, toxic and radioactive compounds and heavy metals.**
- **The waste water** that results from CSG mining is highly saline and **may contain toxic levels of elements such as arsenic, boron, cadmium, lead and mercury. It can pose a risk to waterways, domestic wells, and farming if it's not stored properly.** (Some CSG wells, in particular in Queensland, will produce tens of millions of litres of waste water each year. Much of this water is saline and, if released, has the potential to alter the temperature, acidity and chemistry of local streams and lakes, wiping out plants and animals. To date, most CSG waste has been stored in ponds, but this is an unsatisfactory solution.

As the water evaporates, the salts in it concentrate, forming brines. Over time, there's a risk that the ponds will leak into underlying aquifers, or the brines will escape into the surface water during floods).

- If rocks are permeable or cracked during the CSG mining process, then over years or decades, overlying aquifers could be affected, **potentially lowering water levels and ultimately impacting irrigation and domestic wells.**
- **Hydraulic fracturing has been linked to small earthquakes in England and the USA.**

(Source: <http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/journal/csg-gas-mining.htm>)

Some of the risks of CSG mining were also recently highlighted in the ABC 4 Corners documentary 'Gas Leak' of 1 April. It can be viewed at the following link -

<http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/2013/04/01/3725150.htm>

Even investors in CSG are becoming concerned about the impacts of CSG on the environment. I refer to the following ABC 'Inside Business of 4 April 2013', where **investors admitted they were becoming "unnerved by it" and that it was "potentially quite tricky, dangerous stuff"** (<http://www.abc.net.au/insidebusiness/content/2011/s3731460.htm>).

ii.) The potential cost of CSG

CSG is a multi-billion dollar industry. The industry will create jobs – and there's the potentially lucrative export market for investors given that **much of the CSG will be converted into liquid natural gas (LNG) and exported to Asia, with major buyers including China, India and Japan** (<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/journal/csg-gas-mining.htm>).

However, **it is the average Australian citizen who bears the risk.** If anything goes wrong it will be the average Australian citizen who will suffer poor health, lose access to their water supply, whose property will reduce in value and who will have to pay the financial price. Furthermore, the implications of something going wrong could be felt for generations. **It is well established internationally that a precautionary approach should be taken in such circumstances.**

The CSG mining companies would not have the public liability insurance to adequately compensate everyone in the event that something went wrong on a very large scale – the average Australian would have to make up the shortfall. Assuming, of course, that it is physically possible to remedy the damage.

Regardless of the scale of anything going wrong, no Australian should be made to accept any risk associated with CSG.

There are also concerns about the methane released being a significant contributor to global warming. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, with many times the Global Warming Potential (GWP) of carbon dioxide.

(http://www.energymatters.com.au/index.php?main_page=news_article&article_id=3469). As a country that is paying a carbon tax to compensate carbon emissions, the question arises whether we will have to pay a tax to compensate the methane emissions from CSG.

iii.) *Current checks and balances inadequate*

Exclusion zones in and around our water catchments and agricultural land are necessary as **the current checks and balances designed to protect our water are not working and/or not strong enough in relation to CSG mining.**

For example, in December 2012 **Primary Industries Minister Katrina Hodgkinson replaced the entire board of the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA).** For the first time since it was set up after the contamination of Sydney's dams in 1998, **the board does not include a public health expert, even though having such a member is required by legislation**

(<http://www.theleader.com.au/story/266472/blow-for-mining-opponents/>).

In addition, **the new board chairman designate, former federal Liberal Party treasurer Mark Bethwaite, is a former director of two of Australia's largest mining companies, North Limited and Renison Goldfields.** (<http://nccnsw.org.au/media/o'farrell-allows-drilling-sydney's-drinking-water-catchment>)

By way of another example of the failing checks and balances, the State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) 2011 requires all proposed developments in the drinking water catchments to demonstrate a sustainable neutral or beneficial effect on water quality (<http://www.sca.nsw.gov.au/the-catchments/coal-seam-gas/the-approval-process-for-coal-seam-gas-exploration>). Yet **despite the legislation and the risks associated with CSG mining in water catchments exploration, CSG licenses have been granted in and around our water catchments.**

I refer for example to the submission provided by Mr Nick Callaghan to the General Purpose Standing Committee (No 5) Inquiry into Coal Seam Gas Mining, which related to the CSG exploratory licenses for my family's water catchment area. Mr Callaghan's submission clearly outlines the risks associated with the CSG exploratory wells (<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/1d3>

[07f5d598cd485ca25791b00115acf/\\$FILE/Submission%200435.pdf](#)).

The test of 'demonstrating a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality' was not met, and yet the licenses were issued.

IV. Recommendations

As a result, I recommend that the following changes be made to the draft of proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP.

i.) 2km buffer and exclusion zones required for water catchments

The proposed exclusion zones under the draft of proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP provide no protection to our drinking water, as they don't cover water catchment areas.

The health and financial implications for Australia and Australians would be catastrophic should our water supply(ies) become contaminated as a result of CSG mining. Australia would, for example, become financially crippled if the drinking water of millions of Sydney-siders became contaminated.

We live in a country that is scarce of water and we Australians are rightfully very protective of our water. No one living in Australia should be at risk of drinking water contaminated from CSG mining. Yet any CSG mining in a water catchment entails a risk.

In order to adequately protect our health and water, **CSG exclusion zones must also extend 2km away from our water catchments**. A CSG mine outside a water catchment is capable of causing water contamination within a water catchment. **Two extensive research projects in the USA, including one by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), detected unsafe levels of methane in groundwater up to 1km away from gas-production sites** (<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/journal/csg-gas-mining.htm>).

Until there are clearly laid-out exclusion zones for our water catchments, our water supplies are at risk.

II.) 2km buffer and exclusion zones required for all identified food producing lands

For the reasons outlined above, exclusion zones should extend 2km away from all identified food producing lands. Agriculture depends on both surface and ground water, and there are legitimate worries that fracking could contaminate both.

No one in Australia should be at risk of contaminated meat or vegetables. Yet this is a risk created where food comes from land that has been the subject of CSG mining.

iii.) *2km buffer around all residential dwellings and exclusion zones required for sensitive environmental areas*

Similarly, we must protect the health of all Australians by having a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.

We must also protect the habitat of endangered species and sensitive environmental areas. The drilling of 500 gas wells, for example, is proposed in the Pilliga State Forest in northern NSW – the only known habitat of the rare Pilliga mouse. Already accidents have happened. In the Pilliga, for example, thousands of litres of saline water have already been released, killing trees near one CSG drilling site. (Source: <http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/journal/csg-gas-mining.htm>).

iv.) *The right to opt out for local councils should be removed entirely*

The draft of proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP leaves a giant loophole for councils to 'opt out' of the exclusion zones, which makes them vulnerable to corruption and pressure from powerful mining interests. The right to opt out for local councils should therefore be removed entirely.

v.) *Mining SEPP expanded to apply to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas*

The draft of proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP does not apply to other forms of unconventional gas, such as tight sands and shale gas (which has grown rapidly since the mid-1990s). Yet they pose similar risks to CSG. The draft of proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP should be expanded to apply to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

vi.) *Mining SEPP expanded to apply to coal*

The proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP should also be expanded to exclude coal mining in our water catchments. Longwall coal mining underneath the riverbed has been blamed for damage to the Waratah Rivulet, which supplies drinking water to the Woronora Dam (in my family's water catchment area). Cracks were discovered in the riverbed and some of its waters disappeared underground. Remediation attempts by Peabody Energy, the company responsible for the longwall mining, do not appear to have been entirely successful (<http://www.theleader.com.au/story/266961/fears-for-ruined-water-source/>). The damage to the rivulet also appears to be affecting the

water quality (<http://www.theleader.com.au/story/374662/mine-blamed-for-stream-harm/>).

Gujarat Coal's proposed expansion of longwall mining in Wollongong also has serious implications for the Sydney Water Catchment Special Area. The expansion of coal mining in Russell Vale will undermine and threaten a number of rivers, creeks and swamps that flow into the Cataract Reservoir, which is one of the dams that supply Wollongong and parts of Sydney with drinking water. They would even mine under the shores of the Reservoir itself.

No one living in Australia should be at risk of drinking water contaminated by any form of mining. Yet this appears to be a risk where longwall coal mining occurs, and is a risk that my family and other people drinking from our water catchment are currently facing.

vii.) *Mining SEPP to apply to ALL of the above projects, regardless of whether they have commenced operation*

Due to the risks associated with the projects outlined above, the draft of proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP should apply to all of them, regardless of whether they have commenced operation.

If CSG poses such a risk to residential areas, to horse studs and vineyards that they receive protection under the draft of proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP, then our water, agricultural land and sensitive areas must also be protected. Our water supplies and food sources are our most important assets, and will continue to be long after the mining of CSG has ended.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea MacKay

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

12 April 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Draft amendment to the SEPP (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

I am a resident of Gloucester and we have been lumbered with a coal seam gas project by the previous Labor government. Unfortunately the current Coalition government has now tossed us in the too-hard basket. But either way, I'd like to make a few comments on the proposed SEPP amendments.

My comments

Unfortunately, the amendments are lame and tame.

1. Where is the protection for all households, no matter where their home is located?
2. Where is the protection for our productive agricultural land? What about our food growing areas being considered "worthy"? Horses and wine won't feed the country.
3. Where is the protection for our water catchments and our drinking water, which Barry O'Farrell promised would be protected prior to election in 2011?
4. Where is the protection of scenic lands and conservation areas for tourism? Such valuable lands are essential to tourism and this is a sustainable industry. Coal mines will run out. Coal seam gas fields will run out. Why do these two unsustainable activities have right-of-way over sustainable tourism?
5. There's a big loop-hole for local councils and miners to make the most of: the "opt out" clause. Voters are getting sick of seeing such escape clauses that lead to corruption and that favour big businesses with deep pockets and lobbyists. It will be the 'Macdonald-and-Obeid Show' all over again but with different players!

My suggestions

1. Protect your citizens! Prohibit mining and coal seam gas activities within 2km of all homes.
2. Protect your famers! Prohibit mining and coal seam gas activities in agricultural areas and drinking water catchments across NSW
3. Protect your environment! Include exclusion zones for national parks, reserves and lands, especially conservation areas, plus the land that borders these areas too.
4. Prevent more corruption! Delete the "local council opt out" clause (or insert an equal "opt in" clause).
5. Start again! We need to rethink & replan how coal mining and coal seam gas activities are run in this state. Then implement new policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and coal seam gas industries.

Sincerely,

Brad Bowden

Massage Therapist
755 Gloucester Tops Road
Gloucester NSW 2422
02 6558 3025

srlup - Re: proposed amendments- Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) tp implement CSG exclusion zones

From: tazmin clingan <tazminclingan@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 5:20 PM
Subject: Re: proposed amendments- Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) tp implement CSG exclusion zones

To the Director of Strategic Regional Policy,

I have read the draft and would like to submit the following:

1. The draft should include exclusions for ALL food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive areas.
2. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.
3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.

In conclusion I would say that all CSG exploration should be stopped until the State government undertakes their own independent base line studies to guarantee the safety to our very vital water supply both above ground and below.

Thank you and regards,

Tazmin Clingan

105 Morrison Ave

Wombarra NSW 2515

From: Tara and Peter Leishman <tarapete@iinet.net.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 6:19 pm
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I would like to provide feedback and the above SEPP amendment.

Although excluding CSG mining from a 2 kilometre radius around urban residential areas is a good step, it fails to protect residential homes in rural residential areas. This CSG 2 kilometre prohibition should therefore be extended to all rural residential areas. I live in a rural area called Main Arm, near Mullumbimby, which has over 200 homes and around 700 residents diversely scattered over a wide rural area. If CSG is dangerous to the health of people living in urban residential areas near a CSG extraction area (I believe the reason that his SEPP amendment has been made) why should the government allow CSG extraction in a rural residential area as it would do similar harm to the people who live there?

Faithfully
Tara Leishman
1270 Main Arm Rd
Mullumbimby
NSW 2482

David George
41 Coral Crescent
Pearl Beach 2256
12.4.13

Director
Strategic Regional Policy
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Changes to mining SEPP — Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

My wife and I own rural land in the Gloucester Shire and I welcome the opportunity to make this submission.

1. I am in sympathy with 88% of Gloucester Shire residence opposed to mining, or mining exploration activities in scenic or environmental protected areas. (Council Survey September 2011)
2. I'm also in sympathy with 75% of Sydney residents opposed to mining activity on agricultural land (Fairfax Media Survey March 2013).
3. I support the unanimous decision of Gloucester Shire Council to oppose any further extension or expansion of coal mining in the district.
4. I welcome the notion of a “no go zone” to protect residential areas and “critical industry clusters” from potential adverse effects of CSG mining activities. However I remain concerned for the risks to water catchments, imperative for drinking water and irrigation of food production land any risk to human health.
5. As the State's Regional Land Use Policy is progressively revealed, “critical industry clusters” will differ from the viticulture, equine and cotton growing of the Upper Hunter. I speculate that accommodating CSG mining activities in broad acre cereal farmland, fruit orchards and the irrigated croplands elsewhere in the State will prove difficult and disruptive to food production.
6. A NSW map of all Petroleum Applications (including CSG) and Petroleum Titles, published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 20th February 2013, shows that in excess of two thirds of the State has been “claimed” by the mining industry.
It does not seem practicable at any time in the future that all these resources could be utilised.
7. Where is the corresponding counterpoint on behalf of agricultural production? For whilst ever the mining industry is able to stake out its territory in this fashion, agriculture, food production, quality water resources and human health are potentially compromised.
8. I urge a far more considered approach to the future of mining in balance with that of agriculture, food production and the imperatives of water quality and availability.

Thank you again for this opportunity.
Yours faithfully,

David George

From: nino MacDonald <nino@ninomacdonald.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 7:05 pm
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013 To: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au Dear Minister, I would like to provide feedback and the above SEPP amendment. Although excluding CSG mining from a 2 kilometre radius around urban residential areas is a good step, it fails to protect residential homes in rural residential areas. This CSG 2 kilometre prohibition should therefore be extended to all rural residential areas. I live in a rural area called Main Arm, near Mullumbimby, which has over 200 homes and around 700 residents diversely scattered over a wide rural area. If CSG is dangerous to the health of people living in urban residential areas near a CSG extraction area (I believe the reason that his SEPP amendment has been made) why should the government allow CSG extraction in a rural residential area as it would do similar harm to the people who live there?

Dear Minister,

I would like to provide feedback and the above SEPP amendment.

Although excluding CSG mining from a 2 kilometre radius around urban residential areas is a good step, it fails to protect residential homes in rural residential areas. This CSG 2 kilometre prohibition should therefore be extended to all rural residential areas. I live in a rural area called Main Arm, near Mullumbimby, which has over 200 homes and around 700 residents diversely scattered over a wide rural area. If CSG is dangerous to the health of people living in urban residential areas near a CSG extraction area (I believe the reason that his SEPP amendment has been made) why should the government allow CSG extraction in a rural residential area as it would do similar harm to the people who live there?

Niño MacDonald
1059 the pocket rd
Billinudgel Nsw 2483

Sent from my iPad

From: sandra buck <sbuck@tpg.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 7:43 pm
Subject: submission to the draft amendment

Dear Sir

I am very worried by your amendment of 2 km exclusion zone around residential areas and critical industry clusters because this is not enough protection for residential area and the people who live there. The chemical used in CSG mining are not safe for humans and have a huge impact on our drinking water.

It is important to support citizens of this country and the outcry CSG has created and to protect the high quality of life for all Australians. The farmers and their land need to be protected for our food to be healthy with fresh unpolluted water.

Please consider the voice of the people, because the government should protect us and not supporting a short minded industry and gas shipped to China.

Thanks
Sandra Buck

7 Laurel Ave
Mullumbimby 2482 NSW

srlup - Submission on Draft Amendment to SEPP (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries)

From: Peter Brennan <peterbrennan54@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 8:23 PM
Subject: Submission on Draft Amendment to SEPP (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries)

Re:

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I wish to make a submission regarding the draft amendment to the above SEPP. As the owner of rural property more than 2km from a zoned residential area, I object to being treated like a second class citizen. If people in towns and cities need to be protected from having CSG development within two kilometres of their homes then why shouldn't the same rules apply to my home. The amendment should ban CSG development anywhere within 2kms of an existing residence and should not allow any council to overturn it. Why should my council be able to allow such a toxic industry within 2 km of my home? IF you are serious about giving councils more power then give Councils the right to veto CSG mining anywhere in their shire or city.

Peter Brennan
PO Box 58

Mullumbimby
NSW 2482

srlup - C.S.G. Sepp review

From: "Ken & Shirley Billings" <skbillings@tsn.cc>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 8:33 PM
Subject: C.S.G. Sepp review

The Minister, Dear Sir.

I wish to submit to the SEPP review the following

That for the safety of all those who have a water supply taken from a free flowing river, more stringent conditions and regular independent checks should be made on storage facilities to ensure that if flood rains to the extent of at least a one in one hundred year event occurs, no overflow could take place and poison the river.

I ask that this should be attached even to those conditions already proposed, for example to the Gloucester, Manning, Forster/Great Lakes districts, where approximately 75,000 people get there water from the upper and lower reaches of the Manning River.

It should be noted that the so called salt that I understand is mentioned in the E.I.S. for the above project could be not only the most abundant Sodium Chloride, but could very possibly be such things as Sodium Cyanide, Sodium Arsenate, or the salts of a number of other poisons that would be difficult if not impossible to remove from the water supply.

I am also concerned that if the local population is not listened to on this and other problems that the people may feel forced to resort to civil disobedience, such as took place in the Northern Rivers, a thing I did not expect to see in farming areas.

Submitted by and for Kenneth E. Billings 52 Manor Rd. Harrington 2427 Ph. 02 65563015 P.O. box 59 Harrington 2427

srlup - CSG SEPP Submission

From: "John & Sally Higgins" <jhigg@mywispmail.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 8:44 PM
Subject: CSG SEPP Submission

Sally Higgins
 "Faulkland"
 622 Gloucester Tops Road
 GLOUCESTER NSW 2422

11th April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.
 I am a resident of Gloucester and have lived here for 25 years

It is pleasing to see that as a government you have responded to the many people right across NSW who are calling for the protection of local communities from the polluting, high-risk CSG industry. While the amendments to the Policy e.g. the buffer zone is a start I believe further protection is required to protect our water, our agricultural land and the cumulative effect of other mining operations and so risk the health of your constituents.

I work in health with children and am seeing an increasing number of children with difficulties and feel that our environment and quality of food is affecting them and so they are not reaching their potential which of course is a cost to the government. There has not been a comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and the cumulative effect of other mining operations on health and so its effects are unknown. Therefore, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.

Allowing mining in catchment areas where enormous quantities of contaminated waste water are produced just does not make sense. I have to agree with Premier O'Farrell who said in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense.

No ifs, no buts, a guarantee"^[1]. Please keep your promise.

Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland and water by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land. There is enough coal and gas reserves available as stated by the mining industry but we know we have limited

resources (land and water), which are decreasing with climate change, to feed our nation and the world, so let us use common sense and not the dollar to decide where agriculture and mining should take place. It is foolish to think that the mining companies can conduct their own environmental studies and when they say they will operate to "Best Practice" - we know from past experience this is not good enough. The results have been disastrous. The proposed amendments should also apply to projects already through the approval stage as many of these areas have not had vigorous studies done as demonstrated on the 4 Corners program.

As a Liberal voter I was looking forward to some good commonsense decisions on these topics from this government who had made promises to do so but I have to say like many, many people I am very disappointed. While you may have made some moves in the right direction they are not enough to protect my children and our states children to ensure that they will have good quality food and water and health.

I look forward to hearing that you have made more amendments to State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP)

Yours sincerely,

Sally Higgins

[1]

Source: www.australiancoalalliance.com/information/Woodbury%20Park%20Rally.mov.

srlup

From: Melody Popple <melodypopple@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 8:45 PM

To whom it may concern,

As an alarmed young Australian citizen I feel it is necessary for my plea to be made public.

It would be in the best interest for our nation to completely abolish the right to mine for Coal Seam Gas and/or the production of Petroleum within Australian soils. There are many hazardous side effects that would impact upon our environment and way of life. These include: contamination of waterways, infertility of soils, as well as bleeding from orifices – just to name a few. As a woman of only 19, I am faced with the fact that one day I too will want to have children. If Australia goes forth with such horrendous mining ideas, there should at least a 2km buffer zone around all residential dwellings and the SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas. As well as this, the provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

By denying the Australian public the right to live a life free from the harmful side effects of various forms of mining, parties involved in ignoring this plea will be responsible for the death of many.

Do not condemn us. We do not want this.

Melody Popple

Northern NSW resident

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: Nick Kovaleski <nkovaleski1@gmail.com>

To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Date: 4/12/2013 10:19 PM

Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Dear Minister,

I would like to provide feedback and the above SEPP amendment.

Although excluding CSG mining from a 2 kilometre radius around urban residential areas is a good step, it fails to protect residential homes in rural residential areas. This CSG 2 kilometre prohibition should therefore be extended to all rural residential areas across NSW and Australia. I live in a rural area, Main Arm (2483) near Mullumbimby, which has over 200 homes and around 700 residents diversely scattered over a wide rural area. If CSG is dangerous to the health of people living in urban residential areas near a CSG extraction area (I believe the reason that this SEPP amendment has been made) why should the government allow CSG extraction in a rural residential area as it would do similar harm to the people who live there?

Please save the future of our land...

Nick Kovaleski

srlup - Submission re: Mining SEPP ammendments

From: Jones Howard <howard.r.jones@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 10:43 PM
Subject: Submission re: Mining SEPP ammendments

Director Strategic Regional Policy,
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure,
 GPO Box 39,
 Sydney NSW 2001

I would like to make the following comments regarding the amendments to the Mining SEPP.

(a) All residential buildings should be protected by a 2km buffer whether or not they are part of an urban area or not. There must be consistency of protection for all residential areas or dwellings in rural areas. If there is sufficient concern that a 2km buffer is needed in urban areas then that same precautionary approach should be taken in all situations where people are living. On the basis of scientific advice the 2km zone should be able to be extended where it is determined that 2km is not enough to protect important areas.

(b) The right of local councils to override the SEPP should be removed. There is as far as I know no other SEPP where local government is able to override the SEPP other than circumstances where Local Government areas are specifically stated as being exempt. There is too much likelihood that individual councils could make decisions about a buffer zone on reasons other than those associated with the amenity of the residents.

(c) In the event that the provision for exemption remains in the SEPP then Councils should also be able to extend the buffer to areas which the council feels required protection from the effects of the mining, i.e. the Council should be able to list new prohibited areas.

(d) Food producing land should be excluded from areas available for mining. It has always been wrong that horse breeding areas and viticultural areas should be the only identified "critical industry clusters (CIC)". Food producing areas are far more important from the point of view of sustainability than either of the existing CICs.

(e) Water catchments should be excluded from areas available for mining.

(f) Sensitive environmental areas and areas of high conservation value including Nature Reserves, National Parks and other special areas not yet included in the reserve system should be excluded from areas available for mining.

(g) There should be recognition of the fact that coal mining and other forms of unconventional gas extraction should be included in the SEPP amendments.

(h) This SEPP should be applied to all projects that have not yet commenced even if approval has been given.

(i) I support the recommendation of the EDO NSW that the Government provide further public detail on the EPA's new role, including the relationship with the proposed Office of CSG within the Department of Trade and Investment. We would welcome the opportunity for further input.

(j) I support the recommendation of the EDO NSW that the SEPP Amendment be clarified in a way that protects residential, environmental and agricultural assets and land uses (including linear reserves⁴⁴) from disturbance by ancillary mining works.

Howard Richard Jones,
 407 Free Selectors Road,
 Foxground NSW 2534

Home phone 02 4234 1656

Kim Mullins
7/54-56 Hunter Street
HORNSBY, NSW 2077

12th April, 2013

The Director
Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
PO Box 39
Sydney, NSW 2001

By email: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

REF: Proposed changes to the NSW mining SEPP

As a community leader, I am greatly concerned about a number of issues regarding amendments being proposed by the O'Farrell NSW state government regarding the state's mining SEPP and in particular regarding CSG extraction mining. I believe the outcomes if these amendments go through unchanged could potentially be ruinous in the long term as we do not yet know the full practical and health impacts. I therefore recommend a complete moratorium on CSG and other gas mining, plus any long wall mining that can interfere with aquifers, rivers, water courses or industrial and residential areas. I outline my concerns as follows:

1. I consider it illogical and even irresponsible to allow CSG extraction mining till rigorous health and relevant geological and studies have been carried out, thoroughly evaluated by independent authorities on the subject, then safeguards developed and reported on - through a strictly monitored and transparent process.
2. Though I do commend the government for (finally) adding a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas, I do not consider this is sufficient – particularly as our state's population will grow exponentially over the next 40 years and beyond.
3. I consider it a grave omission not to include meaningful exclusion zones far greater than two kilometres around drinking water and agriculture catchment areas, waterways, agricultural land and key natural attractions.
4. The same exclusion zones should apply to mining also, as coal mining can potentially and more obviously have far greater impacts, including air quality and destruction of agricultural land that will be greatly needed in the future as our population grows exponentially.
5. Meaningful exclusion zones should also apply to conservation areas, public land, buffer zones around national parks.

6. Agricultural land should be protected against further encroachment by mining, as food security will be critical in decades to come. It is my belief that to do otherwise is an abrogation of responsibility and trust.
7. Significant exclusion zones should also be put in place around key industry clusters that logically can be affected or constrained by either coal mining or CSG extraction. To do otherwise would very likely impact on their ability to function and/or expand, let alone direct public safety and/or health related impacts.
8. Logically, health protection for our growing population should be put ahead of profits and royalties. I distinctly recall Barry O'Farrell's promises about protections regarding CSG extraction mining and it disappoints me hugely to witness what I can only characterise as a complete turnabout in policy.
9. Any emissions from any form of mining, whether it be direct or indirect, should be monitored, reported on and under strict controls that include permanent shut-down for repeated major transgression, be regulated and strictly policed.
10. It concerns me greatly that the option for councils to "opt out" of exclusion zones has the great potential for corruption. This should either be struck out or totally re-drafted to include strict guidelines, and provisions of transparency, accountability and oversight by a relevant authority. Preferably this point should be dropped altogether.

In my own LGA of Hornsby Shire alone, impacts could in time be significant should any CSG or other mining be allowed. Our shire stretches from the waterways of the Hawkesbury River, through considerable bushland, also agricultural land, wonderful natural areas and reserves, and low, medium and high density populated areas. Significant growth will occur over time and much needed sporting, recreation and parkland is yet to be set aside for future population. Similar to many communities throughout NSW, to allow encroachment by CSG or other mining would very often border on being unconscionable and irresponsible – particularly as the true impacts to water aquifers, water quality are not yet known and should be thoroughly researched in their broader context.

Accordingly, as already foreshadowed, I recommend a total moratorium on CSG and other gas extraction till further in-depth studies and rigorous evaluation have been carried out –in a thorough, fair, independent and transparent process.

Yours sincerely

Kim Mullins

[Convenor

Community Voice – Hornsby Shire]

kmullins@aapt.net.au

srlup - Submission re Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: [REDACTED]
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 11:03 PM
Subject: Submission re Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Dear Director,

I would like to make the following formal comments on the proposed amendments to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production & Extractive Industries) (CSG Exclusion Zones) 2013.

The proposed role of local councils

It is submitted that the proposed role to be played by local councils in identifying areas that would be appropriate to place in Schedule 2 abrogates the obligation of State Government authority. It is inappropriate that such discretion and power be placed in the hands of councils, many of whom have already been shown to be unable to effectively use those powers for the good of their constituents.

It is therefore respectfully suggested that the legislation be further amended by deleting the provision that grants council an effective say in the determination of where and when coal seam gas activities will be permitted.

It is further submitted that the State Government authority should have total discretion on all of these matters.

Exclusion zones

It is submitted that the proposal that the exclusion zones identified in the current draft proposal should be not subject to alteration after today's date. It is also submitted that before the implementation of the amendments, further clarification should be made of the definition of "residential zone". Whilst it is appreciated that residential zone has been given a definition in the proposed amended policy, its application is anything but clear to the ordinary reader and the maps annexed do not clarify with any precision the specific areas the policy is intended to apply to in the future. This is inappropriate and is apparently inconsistent with the Premier's media release of 19/2/13.

Future freedom for the NSW Government to again alter the policy

In a speech to an Industry body yesterday (11/4/13) the Federal LNP opposition spokesman for Energy & Resources suggested that in the event that the LNP was successful in the upcoming Federal election, the LNP would strongly support the expansion of CSG gas exploration and production, particularly in NSW. The legislation that is proposed does not supply sufficient or indeed any safeguards to those in residential zones even though the primary obligation to provide such safeguards lies with the State Government. The legislation proposed is therefore lacking in sufficient certainty for our community, especially if the LNP wins the federal election.

It is submitted that the policy should be further amended by enshrining the policy instrument in an Act rather than regulation. This would enable proper scrutiny of any later amendment or change to the policy. It is essential that the community be protected by the Premier's announcement being given this legislative force.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

(we do not want our names or contact details to be published)

AW Higgins
"Wandinong"
Mullaley
NSW 2379

11th April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir / Madam,

Being a landholder and resident of the Mullaley district on the Liverpool Plains I am extremely concerned at the prospect of having Coal Seam Gas mining in this area and welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP as well as other concerns.

Outline:

Despite the NSW Government assurances and introduced Gateway processes I and many other landholders across NSW are still extremely concerned that our land, water and our livelihoods' are still not protected from Coal Seam Gas mining to any great degree.

There is still no legislation that really protects our land and water and gives landholders the option of saying no to CSG on their land.

The proposed amendment of a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas of greater than six hundred people as well as critical industry clusters does absolutely nothing to further protect areas of broad acre high value agricultural land such as ours or residents of small country villages. This amendment does not protect landholders or villages from having CSG wells or compressor stations in close proximity to their residences or other farm infrastructure.

The proposed amendment does not take into account the impacts of CSG mining within water catchment areas as well as underground aquifers which provide so much of our essential water in the inland areas.

Principle points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment:

1. Landholders must be given the right to say no to CSG mining on their land. In addition CSG and coal mining should not be allowed to take place on productive high value agricultural land when there is so little of it in Australia.

2. There has to be much more scientific research into the way underground aquifers work and how CSG mining activities may affect them. At this stage it is only a fair average guess.

3. There needs to be legislation that commits CSG mining companies to guarantee that water catchments and underground aquifers will not be damaged or contaminated in any way. If a CSG mining company develops a gas field and then on sells it to another entity then they still should be committed by legislation to the guarantee. This would ensure that their research of any proposed field was rigorous and thorough and that they are still liable to prosecution if environmental problems occur. The chain of responsibility cannot be allowed to be relinquished when a sale takes place otherwise it is too easy for the new owner to say we bought on the basis of the previous owner's research and development proposal and the Government approved it. They may then not accept any responsibility when environmental issues particularly associated with water arise.

3. The two kilometre exclusion zone is still too close to residential areas and should be increased to five kilometres minimum distance. This exclusion zone should also cover rural villages and all rural dwellings.

4. The proposed amendment fails to protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the proposed exclusion zone or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitor air pollutants at all CSG fields.

5. Under current legislation landholders still do not have the right to stop CSG mining on their land if the Government gives the CSG mining company development approval. This leaves landholders in the insidious position of having a mine they do not want and land that no one would want to buy. I believe that if a CSG mining company wants to mine despite landholder objection then they should either pay a large amount of compensation or buy the landholder out at elevated values if the landholder is prepared to sell. The current position where a mining company can move in with a mining lease, explore and develop if approved, with Government legislation backing them is untenable and has to be changed. Landholders must have the right to say no or be highly compensated.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by
Andrew Higgins

AW Higgins

srlup - NO means NO!!!!Australia does not need CSG

From: Katie Wunsch <skippychip@yahoo.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 11:42 PM
Subject: NO means NO!!!!Australia does not need CSG

To whom it may concern,

I want to see this entire industry shut down! It has been proven to be an unsafe industry.

We already have CSG refugees who can no longer live on their properties as their families are getting sick due to fracking sites close by.

I find the proposed changes a joke!!! It does not protect our rural areas, nor does it protect untouched wilderness which are wildlife strongholds, it is not only the harm that it will have on people that needs to be considered; our wildlife and natural resources such as under ground water supplies are also in jeopardy.

This industry only will make money in the short term and we will be left with un-repairable damage to our landscape.

I am extremely disappointed that the federal government has not stepped in to shut his industry down, Australians from all walks of life and many who have never protested before in their lives have all come together to try to protect our land, our message has been strong and clear all along!!!! NO means NO!!!!!! No one wants your dirty CSG!!!!!!

This industry has been pushing farmers off there land for far to long, and is effecting our ability to grow Australian produce. If we cannot produce food for Australia our country will go down hill very quickly.

Please also consider why should untouched natural wilderness be destroyed because people don't live there??? We have so many endangered animals in Australia, we need to keep some land clean and safe for them too!!!!

You have a moral obligation to protect the state, and I mean the entire state; there is much more to NSW than just the suburbs and cities.

If you don't protect your rural areas and the water basin it will be the death of Australia.

The people have said NO time and time again; when will you listen to the people you serve?

Exclusion zones is not enough!!!!!!

yours sincerely,

Katie Wunsch

Curvers Drive
Manyana NSW 2539
mob: 0439 205 835
email: justinfield1@gmail.com

12 April 2013

Director, Strategic Regional Policy
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001
Email: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

Submission to the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Background

The NSW community has been making submissions in relation to the regulation of coal and coal seam gas (CSG) on an ongoing basis since the previous Labor Government called for responses to their Coal and Gas Strategy in early 2011. This was the plan developed to distract from the fact Labor had allowed exploration licences for coal and CSG to be issued across more than 30% of the state.

The growth of public opposition to the rampant expansion plans for coal and CSG have been a reflection on this Government's failure to credibly address the ongoing landuse conflict, particularly between mining and agriculture. This is despite over two years of policy development and ongoing announcements of 'tough new rules', particularly relating to CSG activities, by both this and the previous Government.

These statements include the December 2010 announcement by former Resources and Energy Minister Steve Whan of, "**Tough new rules on coal seam gas exploration**"; Two and half years, an election, and a new minister later, the July 2011 release by current Resources and Energy Minister Chris Hartcher of, "**Tough new conditions for coal and coal seam gas**"; and the February 2013 version by Premier Barry O'Farrell of, "**Tough new rules for coal seam gas activity**". The second of these included plans to introduce a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas which is the subject of this submission.

This new policy continues the tradition now long established by NSW Governments of ignoring the legitimate concerns of the community and failing to deal with the critical issues

of the impacts of mining and CSG development on productive agricultural land and water, the natural environment and community health.

Despite this failure, the introduction of the residential exclusion zone establishes an important precedent that will be critical to developing a regulatory environment that can deal with these issues. The policy recognises that there are some areas in which extractive industries should simply not occur, some areas where allowing extractive industries is irresponsible.

No-go Zones should be expanded

In 2005 a collaboration of academics and industry group's set about to answer the question, what would responsible mining look like? Their answer was the *Framework for Responsible Mining*. At the core of the framework is a simple question: Is mining an appropriate land use?

When it comes to our productive agricultural land, rivers and streams, drinking water catchments, urban areas and environmentally sensitive areas like state conservation areas and state forests it is clear mining is not an appropriate land use. The impact of extractive industries reducing the ability for the other values of those areas to be recognised, for food to be produced on an ongoing basis or for the environment to sustain biodiversity. These areas should become no-go zones for extractive industries.

Of course coal and CSG mining is irresponsible for reasons other than that they damage land and water and threaten community health and that is the contribution they make to fueling climate change. But given the failure of Governments to initiate a phase out of fossil fuel mining, constraining their development so as to not impact on these other areas that are vital to maintaining the resilience of our community is an appropriate first step.

The following additions should be made to the exclusion zones amendments:

1. All activities under the mining and petroleum (onshore) acts should be subject to the exclusions, including any developments not yet started, even if approved.
2. Productive agricultural land, drinking water catchments, rivers and streams, all environmental reserves, state forests, travelling stock routes and land zoned for urban development should be covered by the exclusion zones.

Community right to decide

The proliferation of mining and gas exploration and development or the threat of future development in exploration licence areas has left many communities concerned that their existing industries and environment will be sacrificed to mining.

The Institute for Sustainable Futures in its 2009 Mineral Futures Discussion Paper noted that “a major discrepancy exists in the power of local communities to influence regional futures planning and decision-making relative to global corporations and governments”.

This discrepancy has been illustrated numerous times as communities are encroached upon by mines approved originally as ‘boutique’ operations which over time have expanded to the point of forcing out other industries and turning some towns into a little more than a mine service centre.

Communities should have the power to decide what mix of industries they want and where these industries can go, while state and federal Government retain the the responsibility to ensure development occurs with suitable environmental and planning conditions.

The right provided under the SEPP amendment for councils to opt out of the residential exclusion zone recognises the role councils have in determining the economic future of their local government area. However this right amounts to little without the corresponding right to expand mining exclusion zones to capture other areas. Many local councils have expressed opposition to local extractive industries, especially CSG. They are commonly concerned about the potential loss of agricultural land and industries as well as tourism and aesthetic values that contribute to the attractiveness of the area.

The following addition should be made to the exclusion zones amendments:

1. The rights of councils be expanded to provide both a right to opt out as well as to opt in to exclusion zones relating to extractive industries.

From: Greg Morris <mcmorris2@bigpond.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/13/2013 7:41 pm
Subject: CSG

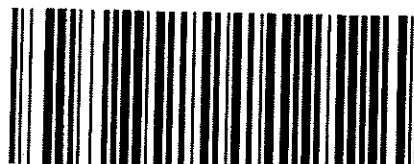
Why do you make the submission dates for objection to CSG so short. The majority of people who wish to object are individuals who have businesses to run and don't have the time and resources that big business such as CSG have to allocate people solely to a task.
Or is this the point. You don't want us to object. Well we Do.

Greg Morris
Mobile 0428435239
Home 0267435239
mcmorris2@bigpond.com

From: Greg Morris <mcmorris2@bigpond.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/13/2013 8:51 pm
Subject: CSG

None of the strategic land management policy's are worth the paper they are written on. They protect nothing. The simple fact council can override the 2km exclusion zone is a joke. Already Santos and no doubt other CSG industry are lobbying councils. Probably promising a child's play area or sponsor ship of the local show. It's as insulting as giving beads to the Indians for their land. Until we have a constitution which properly protects the rights of those who have title of land and protects the rights of communities when the majority say NO. The dilution of the Australian way and the rights of individuals will continue to dilute on the profit of another multi national sector dollar. I wonder what our for fathers would think as they gave there lives to protect this country.

Greg Morris
Mobile 0428435239
Home 0267435239
mcmorris2@bigpond.com



PCU043374

TO: Planning & Infrastructure Dept.,
Director of Strategic & Regional Policy,
GPO Box 39, Sydney 2001

FROM: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Changes to the Mining SEPP Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

SUBMISSION

Department of Planning
Received
11 APR 2013
Scanning Room

I am happy to have this submission published MINUS my address

Introduction

Firstly I wish to complain about the manner in which the Department put out its call for Submissions to the public. Out of 3 local newspapers, only one carried an advertisement and this was published on a Friday and not followed up on Saturday. The 3 weeks allowed straddled the Easter long weekend. When a Greens M.P. warned of a loophole in the proposed Changes, I felt the need to peruse a briefing paper to become better informed on the details, but I was advised over the phone that no such paper could be sent out and I had to rely on the skeletal terms of reference in the newspaper ad. This has lead me to suspect that the Department is hopeful of not receiving too many Submissions.

Extension of buffer zones

Whilst I am pleased that the many complaints about the inadequacy of the 200 metres buffer zones has been heeded, the definition of a "residential zone" or future identified "residential growth area" is vague & ill-defined. I have heard rumours that only a compact area containing 1000 suburban homes will qualify for a 2 km buffer zone. Even though I am on the mailing list of my local MP Thomas George & others, this hasn't been put in writing. Furthermore, there have been press reports that a local Council can nullify this. As in most rural towns & cities, there is a mixture of residents on quarter acre blocks, small and large acreages. This vague definition therefore, has cavernous loopholes.

Critical Industry Cluster on the Upper Hunter equine & viticulture industries

This has caused much anger among people living outside this favoured upper-class area. In the rest of country NSW many primary producers are struggling to produce basic food amid fears of dropping bore levels and possible contamination. Is the Premier making a statement that animals bred for the "Sport of Kings" are more important than animals bred for basic food? Why are Upper Hunter grapes more important than grapes grown elsewhere or other types of fruit? We all suspect a covert political agenda here.

Conclusion

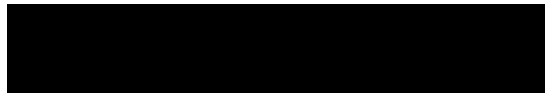
I would urge the Premier in the strongest possible terms, to bring some measure of logic and equality to his proposed changes and to connect with areas outside Sydney & the Upper Hunter. Growing Australian food using uncontaminated water, air & soil, is far more important than playing political games. This clumsy attempt to tighten regulations will surely back-fire on him, because it has upset not only the anti-

CSG people-Primary producers, but also our pro-CSG Council and local mining companies who are erroneously blaming the latest proposal for their demise. This clumsy, elitist proposal should be ripped up and a new draft formulated that places the need for clean food and a clean peaceful environment for residents as a prime consideration.

Even though the present government has acted to make mining companies more accountable, loopholes still exist and the new amendments will only be acceptable to a small number of residents.

I feel that the Premier is merely going through the motions of gathering public opinion and that Submissions may be dismissed. The plan for "quick talk & run" so-called government experts is being viewed with scepticism here in Casino.

Thank you for reading my Submission





17/163 Willoughby Rd
NAREMBURN
NSW 2065

10/4/2013

The Director
Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO BOX 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Sir,

RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO MINING SEPP

My wish is for future generations to have clean air to breathe and clean water to drink. Coal mining and CSG exploration and development pollute the atmosphere, the pastures, and the waterways and create a demonstrated risk to these basic life requirements.

I request;

1. The SEPP amendments be broadened to include a 2km buffer zone around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be extended to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

I thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs MJ Williams

email: margaretjwilliams@oneseniors.com.au

Enc. What is the price of Coal?

WHAT IS THE PRICE OF COAL?

1. Permanent degradation of the landscape, with large areas of Overburden remaining.
2. Coal Mining leaves large areas of land unsuitable for any other purpose.
3. Permanent damage to the water table and water quality in creeks, dams, and rivers.
4. Coal Mining and CSG causes Pollution of the atmosphere by particulates of many chemicals and heavy metals, leading to breathing problems and climate change.
5. It causes Noise pollution from blasting, trucks which operate 24 hours a day and coal wagon trains (uncovered coal wagons which further pollute the atmosphere and landscape).
6. Coal Mining requires excess water usage with no restrictions .
7. Causes the creation of huge dams holding polluted, saline water – no solution for disposal.
8. Mining causes sleep disturbance for people who live close to mines, from 24 hour a day operations, very strong lights and blasting noise.
9. Depopulation of towns, villages, farming properties and others, adversely affected by Air Pollution, Noise Pollution, Pasture Pollution, Landscape Pollution, Waterways Pollution connected with encroaching Mining Activities.
10. Loss of heritage properties and the value of hard-earned housing property.
11. Loss of large areas of old growth forests.
12. Loss of habitat for animals, birds, insects, fungi and plants native to the areas.
13. Some token attempts to revegetate are made using Galena, a vigorously spreading plant from South Africa, which should be declared a Noxious weed, unpalatable to cattle and sheep.
14. The coal dust polluted atmosphere is detrimental to the health of all who come in contact with it, especially children, who suffer chest and skin allergies (refer Dr Tuan Au, Singleton, study commenced 2009). Allergies improve when the families move from the area.
15. Families are encouraged to move to mining areas by the offer of well-paid jobs but many times, find only caravans and tents available for housing.
16. Which leads to the break up of families. Father works in mining, families have to live elsewhere.
17. Which leads to Drive-in Drive-out, miners working 12 hour shifts for 7 days and driving 4 or 5 hours on dangerous roads, shared with huge heavily laden coal trucks to spend days off with families.
18. Which leads to more road accidents.
19. Housing demands from mining companies and miners, leads to other workers, no longer able to afford rents, leaving the towns for more agreeable areas, affordable rents and no pollution.
20. Which leads to formerly profitable businesses closing due to lack of staff.
21. Ill-health for children and adults with stress problems (disturbed sleep and anxiety) leads to significant increase in Public Health costs and further demand on Hospitals and services.
22. The giant trucks, which operate 24 hours a day are fuelled by Diesel, subsidised by the Government.
23. World Health Organisation has confirmed that diesel fumes are carcinogenic.
24. Presently there are 9 Ports on Queensland coast, some require dredging, 100 ships queue to load, 6,000 ship movements per year through Barrier Reef.
25. The proposed Galilee Basin mining development will lead to demand for further Ports and shipping, leading to further damage to the Barrier Reef.
26. The Barrier Reef is already under UNESCO warning to be declared endangered.
27. Coal and derivatives cause further pollution in converting to Energy, Power Stations etc., and manufacturing.
28. The Mining Sector earns only 8 % of Australian GDP, despite subsidies and no cost for the expense of covering trucks, to limit pollution of atmosphere by Coal Dust during transport.
29. Export of 54% of Coal mined in Australia, adds to the Pollution in other countries, and ultimately the Planet.
30. Surely this information is known to the government, how can it be ignored and not acted upon? How long will this madness continue?
31. Carbon Capture & Storage is an elusive dream, unlikely to be workable and vulnerable to Earthquake activity. The time and money is better spent on researching and implementing renewable alternative energies.
32. And when Coal and CSG mining ends, as it will, what then of the damage to farm and agricultural land, vineyards and thoroughbred horse studs, which could have been nurtured as valuable contributors to jobs and the economy? What will be the cost in attempts at reparation? And - Now it is planned to encroach on suburbs of Sydney.
33. That this careless degradation of the country and disturbance to peoples lives has become acceptable underlines the urgency of the need to develop Renewable Alternative Energies.
34. The cavalier manner of plans that destroy the environment and amenity of the general population leads one to believe that none of the people who make these plans and/or those who sit on Boards of Enquiry and give Approval, actually live in the areas affected.
35. Where do you live? Do you care about your progeny having clean air to breathe and clean water to drink?

Revised 15/2/2013



PCU043305

8th April, 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

138 Beecroft Road
Beecroft
NSW 2119



Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission regarding draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

The coal seam gas industry in Australia and the U.S. has grown rapidly and, I believe, ahead of the relevant legislative safeguards we need. In particular I do not believe that adequate research has been done into the effects of CSG on groundwater, or the monitoring of fugitive emissions and their health and climate change impacts. In addition, the impacts of CSG will be felt long after the industry has packed up and left. We cannot undo the damage once wells are drilled through the ground. They may or may not be safe now, but will they be safe in 50 or 100 years when the structures deteriorate? What sort of legacy are we leaving? We need to stop and think about what we are doing, and governments need to give their constituents a chance to have their say with a full public enquiry into the short, medium and long term impacts of this industry.

The amendments this government has put forward are applauded but don't go nearly far enough.

My key points and recommendations are:

1. A complete moratorium on drilling and extraction until the research on groundwater and fugitive emissions is in.
2. An enquiry into the long term impacts and what potential cost burden we are leaving our children and grandchildren. What will happen to the wells once the mining companies leave? Are the companies putting funds into a trust to cover the cost of maintaining the wells safely after they leave? Are we expecting them to be filled with concrete and left as a scar on the landscape and a source of leakage between strata layers, including water tables?
3. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
4. There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
5. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place

policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.

6. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
7. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
8. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
9. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
10. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
11. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
12. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

Yours sincerely,



Janet Ellis

47 Lieberts Lane

BRUNKERVILLE NSW 2323

3 April 2013

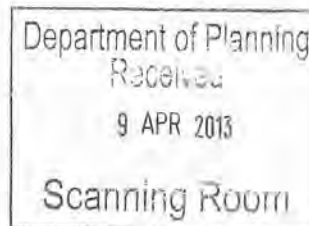
The Director

Strategic Regional Policy

Department of Planning & Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001



RE: DRAFT SEPP (Mining, Petroleum & Extractive Industries)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Mining SEPP. I broadly support the proposed amendments but as a retired geologist, have some specific concerns which remain unaddressed in the draft legislation:

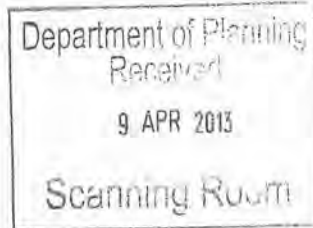
- **All forms of unconventional gas extraction should be covered.** In terms of risks to the environment generally, aquifer contamination specifically, and human health, there is little difference between coal seam, shale, tight sands etc gas extraction. All methane-bearing deposits also contain petrochemicals which can be released in produced waters or in the gas stream itself. Airborne volatile and water-borne semi-volatile organic compounds are a serious risk to human health. These are contained within all gas-related deposits in varying amounts. Natural gas, depending on its origin, is highly variable but can contain up to 15% volatile organic chemicals and other non-methane chemicals. These chemicals have been detected in contaminated drinking water and air samples at residences in shale and coal seam gas fields.
- **There should be a complete ban on unconventional gas extraction in drinking water catchments.** Again all deposits contain petrochemicals that can migrate into aquifers or into surface waters. Despite industry claims of risk management, water contamination has occurred in the USA and in Australia, and incident data can be expected to emerge over time, since detection will not be immediate in most places. There is no room for anything other than a precautionary approach to our precious ground-based sources of drinking water which almost all urban dwellers rely upon. Sensitive individuals, such as children, must not be exposed to chronic low level petrochemicals in drinking water. Government will expose itself to common law suits, if extraction in drinking water catchments is not prohibited. The catchment at Gloucester provides at least 75,000 NSW residents with their drinking water and determines the health of the Nelson Bay oyster and fishing industry. There is no room to make an error in permitting this catchment to be contaminated with natural coal seam organics, salt and fracking chemicals.
- **All residences, urban and rural should be protected by a minimum, preferably greater, 2km buffer zone and no residences should be permitted in a gas field.** Exposure to airborne pollution, in the form of methane, volatile organic chemicals, hydrogen sulphide,

polyaromatic hydrocarbons, diesel exhaust emissions, polyaromatic hydrocarbons emitted during flaring, and ozone formed through photochemical reactions with nitrous oxides are well documented in gasfields in the USA. While exposure may be well below standards set for occupational exposure, chronic low level exposures 24 hour a day to sensitive individuals such as children and the elderly in a residential situation should not be permitted. A gasfield 'syndrome', comprising headaches, nosebleeds skin rashes, asthma and fitting, and even neuropathy, can be explained by exposure to organic solvents present in the non-methane hydrocarbons, and by ozone forming from photochemical smog in gasfields. There are currently insufficient regulatory protections for residents from airborne contaminants. 'Conventional' major hazard facilities in NSW are subject to stringent planning requirements and licensing and the WHS laws (e.g. a LNG plant). An unconventional gas field is equivalent to a major hazard facility spread across many kilometres of the landscape. If it is good enough for dog kennels and wind farms to be located well away from residences with buffer zones, it simply cannot be acceptable that a major noxious industry not be also subject to stringent planning requirements and exclude residences completely. The new Work health and Safety legislation which erroneously has NOT been applied to coal seam gas developments, provides a duty of care for persons in control of a business to protect third parties, such as the public. An equivalent duty of care must be established for onshore gas operations.

- **Underground buffer zone.** All residences should be protected from underground horizontal fracturing activities by a minimum 2km, preferably greater. Especially for shale gas and tight sands extraction, extremely high pressures are achieved in the underground infrastructure and geological formations which can lead to transmitted seismic and noise waves. It is well-documented that residences many kilometres from shale gas activities can be subjected to excessive noise, and in some cases, seismic events of a sizable nature, rendering residential living impossible.
- **Critical industry clusters** – broad acre farming and all food-growing activities are incompatible with onshore gas production. In a gas field, each well and other production infrastructure is located in a 500m grid pattern across the landscape. It is not possible to farm with gravel access roads, piping, holding ponds, fences, drainage and culverts, flare stacks, compressor stations, water treatment plants etc. due to physical access restrictions and the rendering of a proportion of the productive landscape unusable. It is also nonsensical, bordering on farcical, that the first few critical industry clusters proposed are Hunter Valley wineries and horse breeding facilities, when the state of NSW has many other industries of critical importance to the economy.
- **Opt-out for councils** – This proposal should be removed. If an industry activity poses risks to the NSW community, it is unacceptable that local councils should be able to opt-out of the planning requirements applying across the board. This is a recipe for local graft and corruption and will also open the state to common law actions.

Yours sincerely

Roger Reid



Suzanne Whyte
5 Clarke St
Catherine Hill Bay
NSW 2281

7th April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

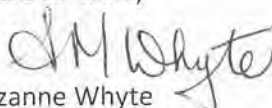
Dear Sir/Madam,

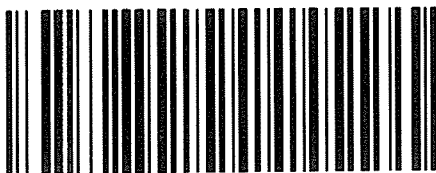
RE: DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (MINING, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES) (COAL SEAM GAS EXCLUSION ZONES)2013

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy. I applaud your decision to protect urban areas that are zoned as residential and critical rural industries however this change does not address:

- impacts of CSG development on the State's key water supplies. Unpolluted drinking water is THE most important need in our communities. To extract CSG, millions of litres of water are pumped deep beneath the earth, threatening ancient aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water.
- The draft SEPP does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments
- This state is blessed with highly productive agricultural lands . To trade these for gas production is short sighted. Gas can easily be brought in by pipelines from other States such as Queensland where gas drilling is not threatening aquifers and prime agricultural land. Each State does not need to be self- sufficient. We are a country of federated states not nation states.

Yours sincerely


Suzanne Whyte



PCU043330

David Palmer
26 Cicada Glen Road
Ingleside 2101

5 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

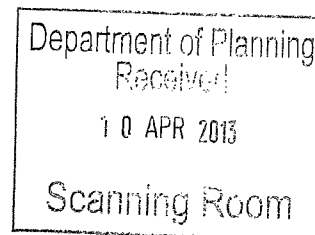
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SEPP draft amendment. I agree with stopping Coal Seam Gas (CSG) developments within 2 kms of residential areas, but we need more protection against the damage that CSG developments are likely to cause to our native habitat, regional water supplies and productive agricultural land.

CSG developments have a limited life, maybe only tens of years, but the damage they can cause will last for many hundreds of years, if not for ever.

I would like to see further amendments to the SEPP which would protect drinking water catchments, state conservation areas, all prime agricultural land (not just vineyards and horse studs) and prevent local councils from "opting out" of the prohibition on CSG mining in certain areas.

Yours sincerely

David Palmer



Director Strategic Regional Policy
Dept Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney

2001



PCU043227

Department of Planning
Received
8 APR 2013
Scanning Room

Phillipa Kemp
14 Gould Place
Parramatta
2150 NSW

4/4/2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to comment on the policies regarding coal seam gas retrieval and exploration and production and other dangerous mining operations near people, native animals and our precarious natural and rural environment.

The two kilometre exclusion zone around residential and industry settlements as outlined in the proposed amendment SEPP fails to include the necessary further environmental safeguards to protect our water, our rural lands for potential future agricultural pursuits (we may need them, more, in the future), and the health of not just humans in New South Wales but our critically endangered fauna & flora thus also endangering our conservation programs.

My main concern is the lack of real knowledge regarding effects of these mining projects including large coal mining projects and gas field projects esp. near catchment areas and involving ancient aquifers.

reports from the US warn us not to "go down their path" and allow these gas fields to occur and large scale mining in water catchment areas.

There has not been enough investigation

(to allow such ventures) by NSW Health Dept.

Reports from areas already with contaminated water supplies eg Gladstone Qld should be "ringing bells" for the NSW Government to make extremely intensive & extensive studies before allowing such activities just to make money for the state and mining companies. There is too much at stake, what price the people's health. Explore other energy sources or make more protective safeguards.

I agree wholeheartedly with the Nature Conservation Council of NSW,

and fully endorse their recommendations.

* See attached, recommendation. "Term response"

I am not just part of a term response. I read, observe and think for myself and certainly have my own standards.

I believe this widespread mining is a very big mistake.

(Thank you) Yours Sincerely,

Phillipa Kemp

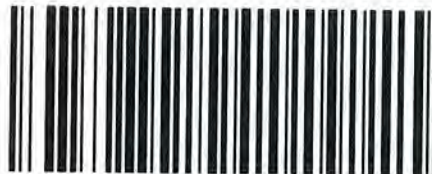
Key points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment:

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

The Director Strategic
Regional Policy
Department of Planning and
Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

2 Headland Avenue
Austinmer NSW 2515
Ph: 4267 3699

April 5th 2013



PCU043228

Dear sir,

Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

The amendments proposed are a step in the right direction but do not provide sufficient protection to the State's valuable assets, in particular its agricultural lands.

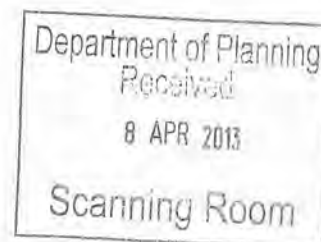
The development of a gas field for extraction of coal seam gas, or shale gas, inevitably results in the industrialisation of the entire area of the gas field and is incompatible with the existing uses of the land.

The amendment must deny access to existing agricultural land for CSG extraction.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Spira', written in a cursive style.

John Spira



(personal details not for publication please)

12 April 2013

By email

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Wollombi NSW and I welcome the opportunity to comment on the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

The proposed amendment does not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

I understand that the Wollombi Valley is named in NSW government policy documents as a major potential area for the production of CSG. I quote Brad Hazzard from the Lower Hunter Discussions paper (p.33):

"Core hole drilling and seismic surveys over the last five years indicate high potential for coal seam gas in the vicinity of:

- Fullerton Cove – Williamtown
- Camberwell – Bulga – Belford
- Mandalong – Munmorah – Dooralong
- Wollombi – Grumps Retreat – Bucketty – Peats Ridge

It is possible that coal seam gas production could commence within the next two years."

CSG exploration and production would destroy our way of life, our economy (tourism, small scale farming and viticulture) and seriously threaten our superb natural environment and water quality and supplies, which are already fragile. Much of the Valley is also subject to frequent flooding.

The policy of prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.

I request the following positions be adopted by the O'Farrell Government of NSW:

Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.

Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive and independent study by fully qualified experts into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted.

In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near all drinking water catchments across New South Wales. I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009.

Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.

Exclusion zones should protect critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.

The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.

The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards or viticulture regions would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.

All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

There is a risk of exploitation of the local authority "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Margaret Wilmott
180 Black Creek Road.
Springfield
Blackville 2343

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/ Madam ,

I live on the Liverpool Plains with my husband and am part of a hard working Australian Agricultural Family. My husband is a fourth generation farmer. I am a Casual Primary /Infants Teacher.
This Mining SEPP policy will not deliver much needed protection for our drinking water catchments , vital underground water for agricultural lands and iconic natural places.

It is clear that the council' opt out' option needs to be removed. In the current corrupt political environment, engulfing and swirling in and around Australian politics be it local, state or federal ,not removing this clause will expose councils to heavy lobbying by cashed up gas/ coal mining companies and there by in fact leaving them hopelessly exposed to corruption.

It horrifies me that you will not protect us and our future generations from the CSG extraction of thousands of litres of water that will be needed to be pumped from underground, threatening ancient pristine aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water.
With respect, I even heard one idiot suggest that this contaminated water be injected back underground !!! May I paint you a simplistic picture and say that the pristine underground blue waters being reinjected by red contaminated waste water will turn that underground water purple and with the volumes involved will be poisoned and damaged for ever ! I would hope that highly educated advisers would see how dangerous this would be. Which spin doctor from which CSG Company suggested otherwise.

The spider web development of CSG would make our farming operations impossible.
Exclusions zones MUST protect Prime Agricultural Farmland by prohibiting any development of coal mining and unconventional gas operations.

Our farms are not islands .We are neighbours and we independently work alongside each other. No development should be allowed to destroy this harmonious productive work. We are strong hardworking communities. These extractive Industries destroy community spirit. The strong family and social fabric we enjoy will be destroyed if we are not protected. Society will be changed forever.
You AND THESE COMPANIES DO NOT HAVE A SOCIAL LICENCE TO BEGIN.
As our elected politicians the onus is upon you to protect Prime Agricultural Farmland and the strong social fabric that exists with it .
THIS IS WHAT YOU PROMISED TO DO !!

I look forward to immediate changes and amendments in the State Environment Planning Policy.

In fact let's develop renewable energy options and be smart about it. So much sun. Where is the will ??

Yours Sincerely,

Margaret Anne Wilmott.

Blackville

(member of SOS Liverpool Plains

Member of Caroona Coal Action Group)

srlup - Coal Seam Gas

From: Vidya Singh <sinvidya@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 7:14 PM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas

To whom it may concern,

I would like to put down the following points for your consideration in terms of rethinking the rules for coal seam gas,

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

I would also like to take the time to remind you that your position is part of the public service, as such I hope you will consider this in your decision.

Yours Truly,

Vidya Singh

srlup - submission to the SEPP Ammendment 2013

From: "Victoria Hamilton" <seamus@bluemaxx.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/15/2013 12:31 AM
Subject: submission to the SEPP Ammendment 2013

**A PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUBMISSION TO THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY
(MINING,PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES) AMMENDMENT (COAL SEAM GAS
EXCLUSION ZONES) 2013**

I HEREBY REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ASSESMENT SEEK FROM THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS THAT GUIDED AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE SEEKING OF A EXCLUSION ZONE FOR THE PRESENT AND PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND PROPOSED CRITICAL INDUSTRY CLUSTERS, HEREIN THE DOCUMENT, PROVIDE TO PRIMARY PRODUCTION LANDHOLDERS INCLUDING MYSELF, THE REASONS AND RESEARCH USED TO CONCLUDE THAT THE RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND SO CALLED CRITICAL INDUSTRY CLUSTERS WERE DEEMED UNABLE TO HAVE A COAL SEAM GAS EXPLORATION OR PRODUCTION WELL WITHIN 2 KMS OF THEIR ZONES.

I HEREBY REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT ALSO PROVIDE TO ME THE REASON AND RESEARCH USED TO DETERMINE THE DENIAL OF A SIMILAR ZONE TO FREE HOLD PRIMARY PRODUCERS HOMES OR EMPLOYEES OF A PRIMARY PRODUCER WHO ARE NOT CLASSED AS BEING IN THE BUSINESS OF A CRITICAL INDUSTRY CLUSTER IN NSW IE EQUINE OR VITICULTURE.

I HEREBY STRONGLY OBJECT TO THE ALLOWANCE BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVENOR-GENERAL OF NSW TO DEEM THE ALLOWANCE OF A COAL SEAM GAS EXPLORATION OR PRODUCTION WELL TO BE DRILLED WITHIN 200 METRES OF ANY FARMERS PLACE OF RESIDENCE.

I STATE THE DATA USED TO DETERMINE A CRITICAL INDUSTRY CLUSTER HAS BEEN INEFFICIENT IN NOT RECOGNISING THE BROADACRE DRYLAND CEREAL FARMING AND GRAZING OR IRRIGATION COUNTRY OF THE NORTH WEST OF NSW AND STRONGLY URGE A REVIEW OF AND INCLUSION OF THESE PARAMOUNT FOUNDATION AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES FOR INCLUSION.

FREEHOLD LAND FOR AGRICULTURE AS ZONED PRIMARY PRODUCTION SHOULD NEVER BE PUT AT RISK FROM EXTRACTIVE MINING. THE GREATER GENERAL PUBLIC DESIRE FOOD GROWN IN A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT AND TO PUT OUR ONLY SOURCE OF RELIABLE CLEAN WATER THAT WE, OUR STOCK AND IRRIGATION USE IS A WORLD HEALTH AND LOCAL CONCERN.

I URGE THE GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVENOR GENERAL OF NSW TO ASSIST THE PRIMARY PRODUCERS OF THE NORTH WEST OF NSW TO CONTINUE TO FARM UNHINDERD AND TO ANSWER THE MANY SCIENTIFIC UNANSWERED QUESTIONS AS TO THE EFFECTS OF COAL SEAM GAS MINING ON WATER INCLUDING HYDROGEOCHEMISTRY, BY PLACING A MORATORIUM ON THE INDUSTRY UNTIL THESE BASELINE SCIENTIFIC STUDIES ARE UNDERTAKEN. PROFESSOR RICHARD DAVIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM HAS RECENTLY URGED ME TO SEEK FURTHER STUDY ON THE GEOLOGY OF THE REGION AS HE STATED 'ALL MINING COMPANIES MAKE MISTAKES' HE WAS REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO THE WORK HE DID ON PROVING THE 2006 MUD BLOWOUT IN INDONESIA, WHERE A CONTINUING ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER REMAINS, WAS DIRECTLY DUE TO THE DRILLING MISTAKES. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/sci/tech/7699672.stm>

THANKYOU,

VICTORIA HAMILTON, ERROLDON, WEE WAA, NSW 2388PH.0267961731

srlup - Lock the Gate!

From: Ellen Chasse <ellen.messahc@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/16/2013 9:21 PM
Subject: Lock the Gate!

While the proposed changes provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters, they do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.

Some other shortcomings of these amendments, are that they allow councils to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover coal mining, nor other forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

I find it hard to believe that the NSW government is blind to the dangers of fracking, and is totally ignoring the permanent damage this will do to the pristine land that is about to be destroyed by these new amendments.

kind regards
Ellen Chasse

srlup - Fwd: Department of Planning and Infrastructure

From: Metrostrategy
To: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au
Date: 4/16/2013 5:49 PM
Subject: Fwd: Department of Planning and Infrastructure

See email below (there have been three previous ones; two relating to the Lower Hunter Discussion Paper and CSG, one a formal submission on the SEPP draft amendment).

Because of how it is addressed (exactly as requested on DP&I website), this is clearly a submission on the Draft amendment to the Mining SEPP.

If you agree, I'll leave it with you to acknowledge or action as appropriate (I haven't done anything, but they would have received an automated 'Thank you for contacting us. This is a confirmation that your email has been received.'

If you've any questions, please call me, thanks
 Catrin (9228 6257)



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>>> Linda Atkinson <jivehouse@bigpond.com> 4/11/2013 9:08 pm >>>
 To The Director of Strategic Regional Policy Department of Planning and Infrastructure

My Husband and Family and uncountable friends do not approve of the fact that the amendments to coal seam gas don't protect water catchments or agricultural land. We are appauled that Australia has been inundated with this destructive and unrepairable means of Gas Exploration, it is not on and we deserve the right to object! Please stop this Practice, full stop! regards Linda Atkinson NSW 2540

P O Box 1129
MOREE NSW 2400
Ph; 0429 336590

10-April-2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy,
Department of Planning and Infrastructure,
GPO Box 39,
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Re: Submission re Coal Seam Gas extraction.

As a resident of the Moree Plains in the North West of NSW – I wish to staunchly oppose and publically record my opposition to CSG mining in areas of both Prime Agricultural land and areas in general which overlay both the Shallow Groundwater Aquifer around Moree & Narrabri and the Great Artesian Basin at large.

Having seen initial “boom” associated with CSG mining in the corn belt of Kentucky (USA) several years ago and now the demise and corrosion and degradation of that same CSG infrastructure, – a lifelong legacy of environmental damage awaits those that embrace it here on the floodplains of Northern NSW. What is clear from US model is the now lack of corporate desire to fix and make good rotting rapidly depreciated infrastructure. The normal land holder does not have the financial capacity, equipment, technology nor skill set to repair or remotely make good a CSG miners residual impact on the landscape or its residents.

Yet in NSW, our Government is prepared to allow global companies to mine Prime Ag land for short term benefit without any thorough forensic analysis of that mining companies financial strength, that companies or directors / key persons & track record to make good when the CSG industry “declines” or falls victim to “substitute” energy sources in years to come.

I have attended a meeting with our local MP Kevin Humphries at his offices. I have placed my concerns to MP Humphries in person.

In short my questions for to the State Environmental Planning are simple:

- Why are Rural residences excluded from the 2km exclusion zone?
- Why are the heavy black vertosol soils not rated as an industry cluster group as they are the best food producing soils in Australia?
- Will the NSW Government sell off Great Artesian water licenses to meet the needs of the CSG industry and its thirst for water as part of CSG extraction. Despite claims they will buy from existing license holders – there are insufficient megalitres of Great Artesian water on issue?

We have seen broad scale public opposition to CSG, State and Federal Senate enquiries, the NSW Government amending and virtually making policy on the run as it attempts to keep up

with the pace set by CSG industry, and then Politician Andrew Stoner declaring the industries “sustainability – but not just near my place thankyou”. By the time you hear the bell ringing – our best Agricultural assets will be a residual of CSG brine, in ground earth sumps located on a floodplain... (not evaporation ponds) that will leach toxic waste into the local surface water with each rain event that comes.

If is not the rapidly surging public anger that will make the NSW Government change it stance on CSG.... maybe it's the next election in March 2015. One can only hope.

Yours faithfully

Joff Cannington
Resident, Gwydir Hwy – West of Moree.

srlup - Fwd: Use of coasl seam gas in Australia

From: Metrostrategy
To: lowerhunter
Date: 4/16/2013 5:38 PM
Subject: Fwd: Use of coasl seam gas in Australia
CC: Andrew Jordan; srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

See email below (this is a second one).

I think it is a Lower Hunter rather than Metro Strategy issues as it seems to respond to a question on the online forums of the Lower Hunter website.

Also relevant to SLURP process.

If you agree, I'll leave it with you to acknowledge or action as appropriate (I haven't done anything, but they would have received an automated 'Thank you for contacting us. This is a confirmation that your email has been received.'

If you've any questions, please call me, thanks
 Catrin (9228 6257)



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>>> "Naples, Jean M." <jnaples@jhsph.edu> 4/11/2013 2:18 pm >>>

Dear NSW government of Australia,

My comments are regarding measures to keep local communities safe from coal seam gas. Yes , we need our food producing areas, water catchments and communities off limits to coal seam gas!

We also need to strengthen protection around residential areas and water catchments. The current proposal for a 2km protection zone needs to apply to all residents and not just residential zoned areas, for example if coal seam gas were to go ahead at Fullerton Cove there would be over 80 families forced to live within 2km of the wells

Please be aware that in the discussion paper it is highly irresponsible for the Government to proclaim that gas drilling in Fullerton Cove could commence in two years when there is 97.5% of the community in strong opposition to coal seam gas and the area is a floodplain and water catchment.

Thank you for consideration of my letter and comments regarding the use of coal seam gas in Australia.

Jean Marie Naples, MD-Ph.D.
 9 Benson Street
 West Haverstraw, NY 10993, USA

srlup - Fwd: How should we deal with the impacts of resource extraction and mining?

From: Metrostrategy
To: lowerhunter@planning.nsw.gov.au
Date: 4/16/2013 5:32 PM
Subject: Fwd: How should we deal with the impacts of resource extraction and mining?
CC: Andrew Jordan; srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

See email below.

I think it is a Lower Hunter rather than Metro Strategy issues as it seems to respond to a question on the online forums of the Lower Hunter website.

Also relevant to SLURP process.

If you agree, I'll leave it with you to acknowledge or action as appropriate (I haven't done anything, but they would have received an automated 'Thank you for contacting us. This is a confirmation that your email has been received.'

If you've any questions, please call me, thanks
 Catrin (9228 6257)



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>>> Michael W Evans <mikerain@earthlink.net> 4/11/2013 6:02 pm >>>

- Yes, we need our food producing areas, water catchments and communities off limits to coal seam gas!
- We also need to strengthen protection around residential areas and water catchments. The current proposal for a 2km protection zone needs to apply to all residents and not just residential zoned areas, for example if coal seam gas were to go ahead at Fullerton Cove there would be over 80 families forced to live within 2km of the wells
- In the discussion paper it is highly irresponsible for the Government to proclaim that gas drilling in Fullerton Cove could commence in two years when there is 97.5% of the community in strong opposition to coal seam gas and the area is a floodplain and water catchment.

Sincerely,
 Michael W Evans

sr lup - Attention: The Director Strategic Assessment: Submission on Draft amendment to the SEPP (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: "Rod Duncan" <rod_duncan@bigpond.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 8:58 PM
Subject: Attention: The Director Strategic Assessment: Submission on Draft amendment to the SEPP (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Dear Director,

All current Coal Seam Gas (CSG) planning, exploration and production must cease, and no approvals must be given by the NSW Government for any future planning, exploration or production of CSG until and unless the Chief Scientist and Engineer have submitted the report referred to in Frequently Asked Questions and that the report has been reviewed by the CSIRO and other industry and university research organisations and assessed as being sufficiently thorough to warrant community assessment.

Until the delivery of such a comprehensive scientific report has been completed, it should be assumed that there is sufficient evidence from current literature that CSG exploration and production presents an unacceptably high risk of irreversibly contaminating subterranean aquifers, surface water, air and land as has been the experience in the Tara area of Queensland and in numerous sites across the USA, whether within or outside a 2 km range of the well head.

Regards

R.S.Duncan

srlup - coal seam gas

From: Jim Levy <wantoksinternational@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 9:28 PM
Subject: coal seam gas

What is the need to rush planning and exploitation of our coal and gas resources?

They will still be there and will be more valueable if left in the ground in he future. The technology and science is still questionable. Get the science right and stop risking our water, ecosystems, farm land and communities for short term gain. Jim Levy

srlup - Submission re. proposed changes to CSG developments.

From: Jim Levy <wantoksinternational@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 9:23 PM
Subject: Submission re. proposed changes to CSG developments.

The proposed changes to CSG controls are not nearly comprehensive enough.

The protection for land use should include food cropping areas as these are considerably more important than either viticulture or equine pursuits.

The protection of residential areas is important but must be extended to a 2 kilometre exclusion zone around any dwelling, protect rural dwellers. These persons should not be left unprotected just because they live on a farm or in a small rural village. The suggested protection zones are clearly inadequate and inequitable. The arbitrary destruction of land values and livelihoods by allowing CSG development without tight controls is unfair.

It is vital to use this opportunity to provide protection for areas with environmental values. While there are many gas resources available to develop there are a limited number of places with irreplaceable natural features which it is our responsibility to maintain for future generations.

It is essential to protect our water resources. Protection of the integrity of our water catchment areas including streams, rivers and underground supplies at least until the complexities of the system have been thoroughly investigated is a priority. Once damaged, these are unable to be replaced and failing to protect these could be catastrophic for future land use and human consumption.

The restrictions need to be applied to coal seam gas and all forms of unconventional gas extraction in order to be effective. Moreover, the restrictions need to cover all projects still in planning stages, not just future proposals.

All of these suggestions are in the long term interests of our nation, which must be considered above the short term rush to exploit resources for quick profit. The resources will retain their value, and indeed probably increase in value, over decades to come. This time should be used to establish technologies to develop these resources in a safe, sustainable way.

Lyn Levy

srlup - NO CSG in Sydney drinking water Catchment

From: Julie Goldfinch <juliegoldfinch@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 9:19 PM
Subject: NO CSG in Sydney drinking water Catchment

Dear Sir/Madam,

My hope that common sense prevails in exclusion of all drinking water catchment areas in NSW AUSTRALIA for the mining of CSG.

My area of concern is The Burragorang Valley water catchment area at Nattai/ Oakdale NSW .

This water runs directly into the Warragamba Dam which as we all know is **SYDNEY S DRINKING WATER .**

Not only is this a ludicrous suggestion but the danger associated with any CSG well leaking and the direct possibility of any fire being caused by the many lightning strikes that occur in this area, because of the heavily wooded gum tree forest surrounding us would be a death trap ,and the Government needs to be fully aware of what it is proposing to do .

There is only one way in and one way out of our village where these CSG wells are proposed .

On that point alone there is potential for tradgdy ,if a site were to blow up or leak.

Does the Government of the day want this hanging over their heads as we will all remember Mr O Farrell you and your Ministers that allowed these proposed wells to go ahead .

I ask that you listen to the people who voted you to power,and that you keep your promise to them and that you restore the respect to the State Government of the day.

Yours most sincerely

Julie Goldfinch

12 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Dear Sir

Draft Mining SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

I am a parishioner of the community owned Church of St Michael in the village of Wollombi. I am writing to ask that the Wollombi Valley be incorporated into the Viticulture exclusion zone as shown in the map CIC_003 in the above draft.

The Wollombi Valley has many vineyards and is widely recognised as part of the Lower Hunter Vineyard region. It is included in the area covered by Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourism, the principal tourism body. Because of their general appeal, vineyards are a popular tourist destination in addition to the economic benefits of their wine production. The Church of St Michael benefits from this appeal and its viability would be threatened in the event of a reduction in visitor numbers as a result of coal seam gas activity in the Valley.

I understand that the NSW Government already considers the Wollombi Valley as part of the wine growing area as I believe it supports our local Sculptures in the Vineyards event with a grant from Destination NSW.

Saint Michael's church has been at the heart of Catholic worship in the Wollombi Valley since 1840 and is one of the oldest places of worship in mainland Australia. Our church, along with numerous other locations in the Valley, is of great historical and cultural significance. Again, coal seam gas operations would seriously threaten those locations, apart from the general threat to our environment, including the fragile Wollombi Brook.

I consider that the whole of the Hunter wine growing region, including the Wollombi Valley, should be within the exclusion zone, not just those parts currently in the draft.

Yours faithfully

Parishioner of the Church of St Michael the Archangel

Name and address supplied

srlup - Please Read- IMPORTANT

From: sara noonan <sarallanoonan@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 8:15 PM
Subject: Please Read- IMPORTANT
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>
Attachments: CCF12042013_00000.jpg

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001
Friday April 12, 2013

Dear Director of Strategic Regional Policy,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

The recent announcement of a 2km buffer zone is a big step towards admitting that the Coal Seam Gas industry is not safe. However 2km is not enough and the SEPP amendments should be broadened to include AT LEAST a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.

The exclusion zone should definitely prohibit Coal Seam Gas extraction on and near to productive agricultural farmland, as well as extended to include drinking water catchments, waterways used for fishing and other recreational activities. It should also protect public lands and national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes and any of Australia's iconic natural places.

Policies should be introduced or drastically improved and strengthened to protect people and the environment from coal expansion and the insidious CSG industry.

We live on one of the driest continents on earth, and we all need clean water on a daily basis to survive, so in my opinion there is no monetary amount that is worth this risk.

I urge you to stop this industry in its tracks before any further permanent damage occurs.

I urge you to personally research the consequences of drilling, fracturing and “storing” waste water. You will soon find that this is not something you would want within 2km of an aquifer that is connected your own water supply.

A moratorium should be placed on CSG drilling and all other unconventionally mined gas until a thorough and independent study has been done into the human health impacts.

Kind Regards,

Sara Noonan

81 Hume Street

Toowoomba, QLD, 4350

srlup - Coal Seam Gas exclusion zone submission

From: "Sue T" <cross-stitch@live.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 6:06 PM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas exclusion zone submission

Dear Sir,

I would like to lodge my submission regarding the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

Some key points which are of extreme importance are:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km, or larger, buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to add that I believe the best course of action is to BAN CSG completely. We don't need it and we don't want it. It will poison our water supplies and ruin our farmlands. You only have to look at what's happened in the USA and Canada to see what serious problems are happening as a result of CSG and fracking. In a country like ours which is often in drought and mostly desert why on Earth would we risk our farmlands and our precious water? I don't want my grandchildren to grow up in a country where the water isn't safe, the land is ruined from CSG developments. Our national food security is under a very real threat because of these things.

Yours Sincerely, S.Thorpe. NSW.

srlup - Coal Seam Gas Mining - 2km exclusion Zone

From: Liz Friend <makingspace4you@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 5:13 PM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas Mining - 2km exclusion Zone

To whom it may concern

I would like to comment on the proposed policy regarding the 2km exclusion zones. I am quite amazed that the government has not carried out more extensive research into 'fracking' for coal seam gas before it makes these rather strange decisions.

2km from residential areas, horse studs and vineyards - who on earth made this up? What about farms?

If the water is adversely affected - we have no crops, we have no clean water - we have nothing. All we have left is an environment completely ruined by pipelines, we have no fresh food in the shops - and that is meat and vegetables, milk etc etc, we have a severely damaged eco-system.... I would have thought it was common sense to look into this industry with far more scrutiny than what is happening at the moment.

Through my own research, I can see clearly that people are being affected in so many ways by thoughtless actions of governments / big business where the primary (and overriding) goal is to make money for big business and for government without more thought being taken in caring for the welfare of the Australian people and the land.

This is not a 'political' issue - it is an issue that will affect everyone in years to come if the water is polluted with chemicals resulting from fracking - whether you choose to mine near farms or near towns, people will always be potentially affected. It makes complete common sense to me that if you drill down to the water table, there will inevitably be problems.

There are many people already who have experienced health problems.

There are many towns who have been affected by this industry, where the miners come into town... make a quick buck... and then get out of town, severely affecting the resulting economy of that town and it's people.

I have seen footage from the United States where farms have been completely dessimated by the industry, wildlife affected, people's livelihoods, their water.

I have spoken with a farmer near Casino, in his late 70s - his family have been cattle farmers for generations. Due to the fracking, he cannot now guarantee that his cattle are not chemically affected by the water they drink as his neighbour allowed mining to take place on his farm. This has completely ruined his business.

We had a huge disaster from asbestos... this is potentially a far greater disaster for the Australian people.

We need to invest in renewable energy. I live on the land with solar, I am not on the grid. I like it that way. I do not want fracking to take place anywhere near my land. And I will fight with the local people in whatever way I can to make sure this doesn't happen.

I do hope you can see sense and think again.

Please think more intuitively about the potential consequences of your actions which could continue to affect a far greater number of Australian people than have already been affected.

Would you live with coal seam gas mining next to where you live?

Could you stand the noise?

Could you cope if your children start to get nose bleeds, headaches, seizures?

Please take time to get out from the office and really look at what is going on and stop being

pressured by big business and your budgets!

Yours sincerely

Liz Friend

Lot 3, Settlement Road

Mullumbimby NSW 2482

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: william fisher <surfiegy@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 4:38 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Dear Minister,

I would like to provide feedback and the above SEPP amendment.

Although excluding CSG mining from a 2 kilometre radius around urban residential areas is a good step, it fails to protect residential homes in rural residential areas. This CSG 2 kilometre prohibition should therefore be extended to all rural residential areas. I live in a rural area called Main Arm, near Mullumbimby, which has over 200 homes and around 700 residents diversely scattered over a wide rural area. If CSG is dangerous to the health of people living in urban residential areas near a CSG extraction area (I believe the reason that his SEPP amendment has been made) why should the government allow CSG extraction in a rural residential area as it would do similar harm to the people who live there?

On my personal 35 acre property, I get all my water from a bore at the bottom of my hill. Many rural properties also rely on bores to supplement catchment which is never dependable during drought periods. Should a CSG extraction happen on or near my property, or any rural residential property with a bore, the water supply could be contaminated.

Furthermore, my area, as well as most rural areas contains valuable farmlands for growing fruits and vegetables, or for raising stock. There are many cattle farmers on my road. If water supplies for these produce or cattle farmers becomes contaminated with the chemicals used in CSG mining, this would be a disaster for the future of our society which depends on agriculture for survival. We need to protect these valuable farmlands from potential pollution so this SEPP amendment of a 2 kilometre exclusion zone should be extended to include these farmlands lands.

Finally, my area, as well as many other rural areas contain sensitive environmental areas, water catchments and wildlife corridors. The Brunswick River originates in Main Arm and this is the one of the principal waterways in the Northern Rivers. Most of the land that is not zoned rural, much of which contains prime farmlands, are environmental protection areas, and is covered with forests and contains large wildlife corridors, one of which is on my property. Is CSG mining is allowed in these rural areas, it will have a great negative impact on the waterways all over the shire and affect the health of wildlife, who drink from the rivers and streams in the area. As such the SEPP amendment's 2 kilometre exclusion should be extended to cover important water catchment, environmental protection zones, and wildlife areas.

Also as the Brunswick River flows down through the towns of Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads, residents in these urban residential areas who use the river recreationally to boat, swim, fish, kayak etc could soon find that the Brunswick River has been polluted with CSG chemicals used in the extraction process. This could be a major health risk in the future.

So I please ask you to extend the CSG 2 kilometre exclusion zone to rural residential areas such as Main Arm, that are located close to urban centres such as Mullumbimby. If this is not done the health and welfare of many thousands of people living in these areas will likely be negatively impacted.

I also believe that the SEPP amendment be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including tight gas and shale gas.

Thank you so much for consideration of my input.

William Guy Fisher
1059 The Pocket Road
Main Arm, NSW 2483
Mailing:
PO Box 24
Mullumbimby Nsw 2482
6684 5336
0458026484

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Issue:

Proposed amendments being made to the Mining SEPP.

Background:

This submission is a response to the proposed amendments to the State Environment Planning Policy which focus on Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones. As a citizen of New South Wales I am upholding my right to comment and make recommendations in relation to these amendments.

Comment:

- The proposed changes provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters.
- The current definition of Critical Industry Clusters (C.I.C's) refers to '*localised concentration of activity associated with an agricultural industry of national or international significance.*' This definition must be broadened to include agricultural activity of *local and regional* significance. Our local and regional agricultural industries, and all identified food and fibre producing land state wide, must be valued and excluded from Mining and Coal Seam Gas activity.
- It is stated that the Chief Scientist and Engineer will conduct an *independent* review of all CSG activities. I would challenge the classification of this review as *independent* if the person responsible for the review is employed by the government or any company involved in the petroleum or mining industry. The parameters of such a review and the qualifications and employer of any person associated with conducting the review must be made public if the review is to gain public endorsement.
- There are widespread community concerns in regard to unconventional gas and in the area where I live the concerns also relate to antimony and gold mining, particularly in the headwaters of our rivers and areas of consistently high rainfall. The concerns relate to protection of land, water, biodiversity and human health. Many of your constituents are not convinced that your Policy goal is to protect farmland, water supplies and community health.
- The proviso for councils to 'opt out' of the exclusion zones gives me great cause for concern. This leaves councils very vulnerable to pressure from mining companies or mining interests in general and offers a potential for CSG and mining activities to continue where a council is compliant with industry demands.

Recommendations:

That exclusion zones be expanded to include:

- Sensitive environmental areas and all areas of high conservation value.
- All water catchments, as well as aquifers.
- A two-kilometre buffer zone around all residential dwellings, including dwellings in rural and regional areas.
- Any area in an LGA listed by a local council as a new or existing prohibited areas.
- Coal exploration and mining, other mineral extraction and all forms of unconventional gas exploration and extraction. This exclusion is crucial in high rainfall areas and/or in the headwaters of any river where there is risk of contamination of water supplies.
- CSG pipelines, and all infrastructure necessary to support CSG activities outside the CIC's.
- Projects that have already been approved but have not commenced operation.

Submitted by:

Carol Vernon,
18 Hyde Street,
Fernmount. 2454.

From: Vicki Ambrose/Barry <frog-1@bigpond.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 11:04 am
Subject: Mining in and around Wollombi/Hunter Valley

Dear Sir/Madame,

As a landholder in the above area I would respectfully like to ask that any planning in this area take into account the unique beauty and qualities of the area. Any mining proposed could cause serious damage which could never be repaired. There is no safe barrier between mining and water, be it surface water or subterranean water. As we live in a country which is predominately a desert, any damage/contamination of our precious water supplies is untenable.

In a world with a rapidly increasing population, feeding that population is important, and feeding Australians from their own land is of paramount importance. Please take this into account with any developments in agricultural areas.

Thanking you for your attention.
Vicki Barry

srlup - Submission on 2km Exclusion Zones & Opposing CSG Mining

From: DEBRA Weiley <debbiealice@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>,
"office@premier.nsw.gov.au" <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>,
"office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au" <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 11:01 AM
Subject: Submission on 2km Exclusion Zones & Opposing CSG Mining

To Whom It May Concern

This Email is to let you know that I oppose the coal seam gas Development in NSW and all of Australia.

This Email is also to voice my concerns about CSG.

I live in Moree NSW and as it is good that you have a 2km Exclusion Zone - this is by far not good enough.

I don't believe that you are considering the long term outcome of polluting our land, waterways and air quality.

It seems to me you are only concerned about the short term profit but are not even considering the long term effects.

Moree NSW is a farming community that relies on water for farming. With out good water farmers will not be able to make a living and a whole lot of people will be affected by this.

Our Drinking water is at risk, our air we breath is at risk, our future generation is at risk, all for the sake of power and money.

Please stop destroying our Country and say no to any more CSG mining and open cut coal mines.

Kind Regards

Debra Weiley

PO Box 396 MOREE NSW 2400
0438 286 496

12th April 2013

by email to srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

It is completely unacceptable that the NSW Government acknowledged the risk and concern associated with Coal Seam Gas extraction yet only applied exclusion zones to *some* of its residents and two identified Critical Industry Clusters. The following amendments are not only desired but necessary if you wish to protect *all* NSW residents and the future of food production in this State.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely,


Thomas Lampe
Bobbiwaa
Narrabri NSW 2390


Nicole Lampe
Bobbiwaa
Narrabri NSW 2390

srlup

From: "Jamieson, Deborah" <djamieson@sthildas.qld.edu.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 10:33 AM

To protect our country, we need more than a 2km buffer, if this is the best we can get, we need all Australian residents to have it, not just the towns. Our food suppliers, our water catchments as well as our forever unstable drought areas. Please think about our future country, we don't want to live in a smog country like other unfortunate people.

We Need;

1. The SEPP amendments to be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils to be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions to include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments to be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments to apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

we need laws that do not contradict each other, what happened to the environmental protection act, why is this not stopping the companies. if we are a democratic government why are they still drilling when "The poll found 75 per cent of coalition voters oppose the practice, almost equal to the 73 per cent of Labor voters who are also against it." <http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/breaking-news/halt-csg-exploration-nsw-opposition-says/story-e6freono-1226611349148>

Please save our country and our children's futures.

St Hilda's School
 Registered CRICOS Provider No: 00510M

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736 Waukivory Road
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422

12th April 2013

The Director
Strategic Regional Policy
Dept of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Madam/Sir,

The proposed changes to the SEPP policy are welcome and overdue but I don't believe the changes go far enough.

I would like to make the following comments for consideration –

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. All extractive industries should be excluded from water catchment areas, food producing lands and sensitive environmental areas.
3. The SEPP amendments should be applied to projects that have been approved but that have not yet commenced operation as in Gloucester. Gloucester's rivers contribute to the supply of water to the Gloucester and the greater Manning area (approx 75,000 residents) and the real risk of water contamination from CSG and mining operations in Gloucester is of very real concern.

I believe your Government has a responsibility and duty of care to the citizens you represent and protecting the water and health of the nation should be key considerations. There is no room for error. Please honour Premier O'Farrell's 2009 promise that "mining can't occur in any water catchment area . . . no ifs, no buts, a guarantee".

Yours faithfully,
Andrea Sage

srlup - Protect those living on farms and rural properties

From: "Eitan" <eitanzone@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 10:08 AM
Subject: Protect those living on farms and rural properties

Hello,

Could you please consider the following points?

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thanks,
Eitan

From: PennyDB <penny@pennydb.org>
To: <srlop@planning.nsw.gov.au>, <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzar...>
Date: 4/11/2013 9:04 pm
Subject: Coal Seam Gas Residentail Exclusion Zone

Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Dept of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39, Sydney 2001

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a resident of Gloucester, NSW 2422, I am horrified at the intentions of your department and the NSW State Government to allow Coal Sea Gas extraction with two kilometres of housing in the Gloucester valley, or in fact anywhere in the Gloucester area. The NSW Goverment's announcement that the recently announced SEPP will not apply to our valley because permissions have already been granted - in haste and under dubious conditions by the previous state government, is an insult to the people.

The risks are extremely high, the extraction methods appear to be experimental with a strong likelihood of accidents, as has been shown already by the Pillaga "produced water" overflows, the destruction of good farming land being criss-crossed with vehicle tracks between bores, pollution to the water tables and rivers, dust and vehicle emissions affecting health of residents, noise and light pollution, the possibilities for disaster go on and on.

Millions of litres of water will be pumped from deep below the surface during production. In our valley the underground stratification is wildly fissured and scientific studies warn of the likelihood of contamination or loss of the water table. If this occurs no remedial action will solve the problems, thousands of people will be affected on the Mid-North Coast as well as the farms that rely on this water.

The health and well being of the citizens of NSW is being put at risk by this rush for profits by coal and coal-seam gas companies - and a very large proportion of those profits will go straight overseas, since many, if not most, of the mining companies are foreign owned.

Yours faithfully,

Penelope Drake-Brockman
20 Manning Street, Gloucester 2422

srlup - Coal seam gas residential exclusion zone

From: annie iolanthe <annieiolanthe@yahoo.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 9:02 PM
Subject: Coal seam gas residential exclusion zone

Annie Heathcote
160 Wattagan Creek rd
Laguna 2325
11/04/13

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Re Prohibiting CSG activities within a 2km boundary of a residential area? Laguna just 7 kms away from Wollombi is a small yet viable Village, with a thriving Public School, (50 Students), Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, General store, church, Cricket ground, Hall, and many residents within the 2km village radius, every one within this, and out side of this radius, depends on quality, sustainable water. With out water we have nothing.

Having seen the current information on the derogation of water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling, until a comprehensive study into human health impacts of CSG have been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District, and other community groups in NSW.

I believe exclusion zones should also protect our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering National Parks, state conservation areas, traveling stock routes, followed up by, critical farmland, and any area that has effect on drinking water storage or usage.

Many thanks Annie Heathcote.

The Director Strategic Regional Policy

Dept of Planning and Infrastructure

SUBMISSION to the DRAFT AMENDMENTS to the STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I am a resident of East Maitland in the Hunter Valley and for some time now have viewed with increasing alarm the headlong rush into coal seam gas exploration in a valley which is riddled with large open cut coal mines. Thus I welcome the opportunity to comment on the CSG exclusion proposal.

While the proposal is a pleasing first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG there are many important areas not protected. One of the most important is the water catchments which are definitely at risk from CSG drilling. The exclusion zone should be extended to protect precious drinking water in all drinking water catchments.

As human health is probably already being impacted on by CSG drilling the government should place a moratorium on drilling near water sources until a comprehensive study into the potential adverse impacts has been carried out.

There is no protection for public lands including high conservation land, state conservation areas or travelling stock routes and these and productive farmlands must be protected. All these areas need to be protected from any extractive industry but CSG and coal mining in particular.

Of vital importance is the deletion of the part of the amendment that allows councils to 'opt out' and override the 2km exclusion zone. The pressure placed on councils by big business may well lead to decisions contrary to the health and wellbeing of the community.

I would also urge the amendment be broadened to include coal mining and other extractive industries. Coal mining is causing adverse health, environmental and social impacts in large areas of the Hunter valley and should be under the same restrictions.

Yours sincerely.

Wendy White

200 High St

East Maitland, 2323

srlup - Title: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: Ross Rapmund <rossrapmund@yahoo.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 8:53 PM
Subject: Title: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Dear planning department, I am writing to you to request the following amendments for the current draft SEPP exhibition of the-

Title:	Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The following points require your consideration please-

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you,
 Ross Rapmund
 Hornsby NSW

srlup - Exclusions Zones

From: Roger Sendall <rossmore.ag@me.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 4:55 PM
Subject: Exclusions Zones

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

It is completely unacceptable that the NSW Government acknowledged the risk and concern associated with Coal Seam Gas extraction yet only applied exclusion zones to *some* of its residents and two identified Critical Industry Clusters. The following amendments are not only desired but necessary if you wish to protect *all* NSW residents and the future of food production in this State.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around **all** residential dwellings.
2. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Sendall
Rossmore
BURREN JUNCTION 2386 NSW

Penny and Robert Blatchford

Innesfail

Gurley NSW 2398

11th April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy,
Department of Planning and Infrastructure,
GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001 or
Email: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Director,

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

As residents and a farming family of regional rural NSW I believe the proposed SEPP amendments are unacceptable.

Farmers homes are NO GO Zones. Our Farm Children deserve the same protections too.

If it is necessary to protect residential areas and critical industry clusters. It is just as important to protect our rural homes and farmlands.

Coal seam gas development on or under land should be extended to all principal place of residence in NSW regardless of how the home is zoned for both prospecting (exploration) and production or any other mining operation.

The following amendment (s) are proposed for prospecting (exploration) or mining operations:

1. Petroleum Onshore Act 1991 (NSW) section 72 1(a) from 200 m to 2000m.
This would allow all principal place of residence to have equal protection across NSW.
2. Petroleum Onshore Act 1991 (NSW) section 72 1(b) from 50 m to 2000 m.
With respect to garden, vineyard or orchard.
3. Petroleum Onshore Act 1991 (NSW) section 72 1(c) extended to 2000 m.
With respect to any improvements.

The following amendment (s) are proposed for production lease:

4. Petroleum Onshore Act 1991 (NSW) section 71
Equivalent protections must be extended to principal place of residence, garden, vineyard, orchard and improvements. That is 2000 m.
5. Petroleum Onshore Act 1991 (NSW) section 41
Equivalent protections must be extended to principal place of residence, garden, vineyard, orchard, improvements and cultivation. That is 2000 m.

Obviously, the most acceptable amendments would be NO prospecting (exploration) or production or mining activities on or near improvements as defined in the Petroleum Onshore Act 1991 (NSW), cultivation as defined in the Petroleum Onshore Act 1991 (NSW) and prime agricultural land.

General comments

- Critical Industry Clusters (CIC) should also have the 2km buffer zone otherwise how can it expand or grow?

Critical Industry Clusters (CIC) for other agricultural industries need to be mapped across NSW. Including grain and cotton clusters. It is not acceptable to stop the critical industry mapping at vignerons (1) and the thoroughbred (2) industries only. NSW is reliant on more than 3 industries the third being mining. A balance has not been struck.

This proposed mining sepp amendment undermines rural residents and families and all other industries outside the above mentioned three. This is simply UNACCEPTABLE.

- No Petroleum Production Licences (PPL) within 5km [or more?] of a buffer zone (as otherwise in the 21 years of the PPL the PPL will be within the town zone.)
- Revisions/expansions of the buffer zones periodically to deal with growth.
- Query: That councils having the say to draw the CSG exclusion zones.

One solution could be: to have an Act of Parliament if the zones/mapping are to be changed, as that is how national parks are protected. Issue is if the zones are not properly drawn in the first place.

- The zoning and mapping should have to go through the public submission process with objectors having appeal rights, before set in stone, and possibly revised every 5 years?
- Mapping is not accurate – who will be oversighting the mapping and what public consultation is being implemented.
- Why is there a loop hole of the 2 km buffer for any local council who wishes to opt out of the buffer zone and invite csg companies to drill near our homes?

Final comments for consideration;

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our rural residents and families, drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council “opt out” clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.

9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.

10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

Yours sincerely,
Penny and Robert Blatchford
Gurley NSW 2398

srlup - policy

From: Jodie Oliver <krimmy@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 4:51 PM
Subject: policy

The Director Strategic Regional Policy,
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am emailing you today, as a very concerned Australian citizen...

Regarding:

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The NSW government has released a draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones

The proposed changes provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters.

However, they do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow councils to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Please reconsider the future for ALL AUSTRALIANS and Our Future

Thank you for your time and consideration

Yours Sincerely,

Jodie Oliver

srlup - Confidential submission - It's time to protect regional industry from CSG and coal mining!

From: [REDACTED]
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 4:27 PM
Subject: Confidential submission - It's time to protect regional industry from CSG and coal mining!

Dear Minister,

Please find below my comments on the NSW government's proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

While the proposed changes provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters, they do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow council's to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining.

These protections don't go far enough!

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED] (please withhold my name from publishing)

srlup - Submission on the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: Emma Rooksby <emma.rooksby@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 4:19 PM
Subject: Submission on the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to make some comments on the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

We live in the Illawarra, a region where residential housing, rural areas, water catchment areas and areas of great natural value are or will be substantially affected by coal and coal seam gas (CSG) mining. We think that prohibiting new CSG activities within 2 kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a good move, and one that is strongly supported by the majority of voters in New South Wales, including ourselves. However, we believe it does not go anywhere near far enough. It will not protect drinking water catchments, rural agricultural areas and natural areas of cultural or aesthetic value.

We believe that the amendment should be further modified to prohibit new CSG activities in all these areas, including Sydney Catchment Authority water catchment areas and special areas; natural areas including high conservation lands, lands bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes; and productive farmland regardless of where it is located within the state.

Additionally, given that a number of licenses have been granted already in areas that would be covered by the 2 kilometre exclusion zone, and also in water catchment areas, rural agricultural areas and iconic natural areas, there should be a moratorium on all CSG drilling in these areas until a comprehensive independent scientific assessment has been completed into the health impacts of CSG (including greenhouse gas emission levels). This step has been recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and a number of other local organisations.

We believe that the Amendment does not adequately protect public health, because it doesn't regulate the emissions that might be produced by CSG extraction beyond the 2 kilometre exclusion zone, or require monitoring of fugitive emissions from CSG wells. This is a major weakness, given the increasing levels of evidence of very high fugitive emissions from some CSG wells, and the lack of baseline evidence on methane emissions in many developments that leads to an inability to accurately determine the level of fugitive emissions once wells are in operation. The Amendment should make provision for the development of CSG-specific air pollution standards and a requirement for the ongoing monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and any associated infrastructure e.g. compressor stations.

We do not support the inclusion of provision for local councils to override the 2 kilometre exclusion zone. If CSG is to be ruled out in these areas, there should be no exceptions. To do otherwise, this gives CSG companies an incentive to lobby councils to make exceptions, and could increase the risk of corruption. It could also result in worse environmental outcomes than a no-exceptions exclusion zone.

Finally, we note that the SEPP does nothing to address the threats of coal mining to water quality, threatened species, water availability, air quality, health, food production, and other industries. While there is a lot of focus on the risks of CSG at present, and rightly so, the risks of conventional coal mining are arguably at least as great. Take for example the expansion of the Gujurat NRE coal mine in the Wollongong area - this will produce massive amounts of greenhouse gas, huge amounts of noise and dust pollution in heavily populated residential areas near the mine, huge volumes of noisy and polluting truck movements on already crowded and dangerous local roads, and will quite possibly lead to irremediable damage to endangered hanging swamps and tributaries beneath the Sydney water catchment. Yet it is likely to be given approval. The Government should put in place a SEPP that protects communities and the environment from coal mining as well as CSG extraction.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Amendment.

Yours truly,

Dr Keith Horton and Dr Emma Rooksby

Mount Pleasant, NSW, 2519

srlup - CSG

From: "rfcarolan" <rfcarolan@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 4:13 PM
Subject: CSG

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

It is completely unacceptable that the NSW Government acknowledged the risk and concern associated with Coal Seam Gas extraction yet only applied exclusion zones to *some* of its residents and two identified Critical Industry Clusters. The following amendments are not only desired but necessary if you wish to protect *all* NSW residents and the future of food production in this State.

1. **The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.**
2. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 20 km buffer around **all** residential dwellings.
3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Carolan
"Lower Nowley", Burren Junction, NSW, 2386

srlup - CSG exclusion zones

From: "Sarah Ball" <sarahball1@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 3:58 PM
Subject: CSG exclusion zones

11th April 2013

by email to srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

It is completely unacceptable that the NSW Government acknowledged the risk and concern associated with Coal Seam Gas extraction yet only applied exclusion zones to *some* of its residents and two identified Critical Industry Clusters. The following amendments are not only desired but necessary if you wish to protect *all* NSW residents and the future of food production in this State.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around **all** residential dwellings.
2. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Ball

"Gorian"
Burren Junction
NSW 2386

srlup - CSG

From: Mike Funnell <mikefunnell@yahoo.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 3:37 PM
Subject: CSG

11th April 2013

by email to srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

It is completely unacceptable that the NSW Government acknowledged the risk and concern associated with Coal Seam Gas extraction yet only applied exclusion zones to *some* of its residents and two identified Critical Industry Clusters. The following amendments are not only desired but necessary if you wish to protect *all* NSW residents and the future of food production in this State.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around **all** residential dwellings.
2. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Funnell

1996 killarney gap Rd
Narrabri 2390
67933131

srlup

From: "Niki Leslie" <nkleslie@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 3:14 PM

11th April 2013

by email to srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

It is completely unacceptable that the NSW Government acknowledged the risk and concern associated with Coal Seam Gas extraction yet only applied exclusion zones to *some* of its residents and two identified Critical Industry Clusters. The following amendments are not only desired but necessary if you wish to protect *all* NSW residents and the future of food production in this State.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around **all** residential dwellings.
2. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely,
Niki Leslie
47 Gibbons street
Narrabri
NSW 2390

Niki Leslie
Marketing Manager
Mobile: 0412224304



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srlup - Submission re SEPP ammendments

From: Leanne Davis <leasfridge33@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 3:07 PM
Subject: Submission re SEPP ammendments

Attention: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

I am deeply troubled by the tokenistic nature of the proposed amendn

The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings. If the amendments are implemented as planned, this ridiculous discrimination between people that do and do not deserve protection would constitute negligence on your part. Are the farmers who feed the nation and earn export income to be treated as second class citizens? Are clean air and water not human rights for all in a wealthy country like Australia?

Local council's right to veto prohibited areas should be removed unless they also have the right to include additional prohibited areas. Sooner give a man a bicycle with only one wheel - nothing useful can be achieved by this.

The SEPP amendments need to be applied to projects that have been approved but have not yet met the conditions of approval, and have not yet started operations.

The SEPP amendments need to be expanded to include coal mining and all forms of unconventional gas production including tight gas and shale gas. These all pose risks to human and environmental health. I live in Richmond Valley Council area and the council does not even have a risk assessment for coal seam gas mining which has already started here!

Provisions should be made for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas. Only including viticulture and horse breeding areas is laughable! How can Australia possibly become the 'food bowl of Asia' if we intend to do irreparable damage to our best food producing areas? It will be intentional damage, as even if industry does follow 'best practice', by their own admission there will be 'impacts'.

Leanne Davis
535 Upper Cherry Tree Road
Upper Mongogarie NSW 2470

srlup - Mining SEPP amendments comments

From: marg mclean <margy.mclean@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 2:57 PM
Subject: Mining SEPP amendments comments
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

Marg McLean
FalBrook Wildlife Refuge, PO Box 462, Singleton 2330

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39, Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have taken great interest in and made comments on the SLURP for both the Hunter and the Liverpool Plains. The issue of appropriate land use requires our greatest collective attention. Please do your best.

The proposed amendments to the mining SEPP to attempt to protect residential areas and critical industry clusters evidence at least a recognition that there is a problem with CSG and other mining activities. However I am gravely concerned that it is political tokenism rather than honest responsible government.

Exclusion zones should protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.

The need to protect water supplies and ecosystem services from mining is critical. "You can't eat coal, You can't drink water". It is so basic that even Barry O'Farrell was moved to declare it.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee".

Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes. Mining is but short term gain for the few at the expense of longterm cost for the many, including the next generations of humans, if there are any. Exploiting the resources of the earth's ageold material crust concentration of energy over eons of time, using it up in matters of decades is simply wrong. It does not work. It is not sustainable. It is imperative that the irreplaceable high conservation value land and ecosystems are not further

degraded or destroyed. Natural Resource Management means we have to appreciate, respect and protect the inter-related interwoven web of life.

It is inappropriate to provide for Local Governments to opt out of the SEPP. This is asking for trouble from corruption. Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to “opt out” of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. This clause should be simply deleted.

The proposed amendment to the SEPP should include protections for communities and the environment from coal mining. The impact on health from diminished air quality from coal and CSG mining and associated activities needs to be recognized. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.

In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.

Exclusion zones for extractive industries should be the building blocks of Strategic Land Use Regional Planning. It is certainly not strategic to allow the conversion of food production country to holes in the ground. Nor is it strategic to allow irreplaceable remnant critically endangered ecological communities of highest biodiversity value to be dug up for mere money, or even worse, political gain, such as Leard State Forest. This is a travesty.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP.

I urge you to apply the exclusion zone concept as is appropriate, to protect our land, our water, our community; your grandchildren will thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Marg McLean
April 11, 2013

srlup - Proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

From: Brad Belcher <bradbelcher2008@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 2:27 PM
Subject: Proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

The Director Strategic Regional Policy,

The proposed changes to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters.

However, they do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow council's to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining. I urge you to consider the following matters:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.
6. We want exclusion zones extended to protect our water catchments too.
7. Country children deserve protection from mining too.
8. It's time to protect regional industry from CSG and coal mining.

Kind regards
 Brad Belcher
 0423 783 716

"BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD"

srlup - 2km exclusion zone

From: "william crawford" <crawfordconstructions@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 2:17 PM
Subject: 2km exclusion zone

To whom it may concern

I would like to voice my concern about having a Coal seam gas within 2 km of our houses here at Gurley Station

I believe it is completely unreasonable to have it any closer and the law should change to protect us from such an invasion of our lifestyle.

There are already great difficulties with living so far from Town and Coal seam gas should not be added to it. Do not shove it in our face please

Bill Crawford
Gurley Station
Gurley 2398
PH : 0428 273 488
PH: 02 6754 6791
FX: 02 6754 6771

Thanks

Bill Crawford
PH : 0428 273 488
PH: 02 6754 6791
FX: 02 6754 6771

Crawford Constructions Pty Ltd
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****Commercial / industrial Building****

Stephen Annis-Brown

61 Watagan Creek Rd
Laguna NSW 2325

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Dept. of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

In response to your exhibition of the Draft amendment to the SEPP (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013 I submit the following:

1. The village of Laguna in the Lower Hunter region, although not currently classified with a RU5 Zoning, comprises the following undeniable characteristics of a village. These include the historic Laguna Public School with a current enrolment of approximately 50 students, a Church, volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Community Hall, General Store and Wine Bar, a playing field and cricket oval. It also has a minimum of 15 residences within walking distance of this infrastructure. As a result of the 'village character' of Laguna, it should be afforded exempt status under Schedule 3 'Exclusion Zone' for coal seam gas mining.
2. The village of Wollombi (RU5 Zone under Cessnock LEP 2011) in the Lower Hunter with its natural and cultural heritage should be protected from inappropriate mining and gas development and afforded exempt status from coal seam gas mining.
3. Wollombi Valley and surrounds comprise part of the region nationally recognised as "Hunter Valley Wine Country" and "Hunter Valley Tourism", exhibiting commercial agricultural interests and values consistent with other 'critical industry clusters' afforded exempt status under Section 3 of the amended SEPP. Accordingly I submit that the Wollombi Valley and surrounds from Bucketty to Paynes Crossing should also be afforded exempt status under the amended SEPP.
4. The Wollombi Valley exhibits a highly complex and fragile natural ecosystem comprising the southern extremities of the catchment for the state significant Hunter River system, through a collection of numerous narrow valleys and waterways that would be extremely vulnerable to potentially polluting consequences of CSG extraction. Consequently the Wollombi Valley region should be exempt from CSG to protect critical drinking and irrigation water.

Yours Sincerely,

Stephen Annis-Brown
(02) 49983219

srlup - re: Submission CSG Exclusion

From: "Phil & Jackie Whillock" <whillock@clearmail.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 1:59 PM
Subject: re: Submission CSG Exclusion

I wish to register my objection to the 2km Exclusion Zone near Residential Areas within 2km

2km is totall insufficient should there be are accident what is further the underground water supply travels under residential areas.

Phil & Jackie Whillock
Locklea
Bundella 2343
ph/fx 67476217

jpjfarming@gmail.com

srlup - Proposed amendments to SEPP draft proposal

From: Bonny Cassidy <bonny.cassidy@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 1:43 PM
Subject: Proposed amendments to SEPP draft proposal
CC: tim grey <timothygrey@gmail.com>

To the Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,
I write with a public submission to the draft proposal put forward by the state government concerning amendments to Mining SEPP's planned CSG exclusion zones.

Having looked at the exclusion zone maps, I was heartened to see that agricultural clusters and some residential areas have been partly salvaged from approved CSG mining zones. However, given the irrefutable hazards of CSG mining processes to the water table, water catchment areas and geological integrity, I urge your Department to expand the draft proposal in the following ways:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

I look forward to reading these expanded amendments to the draft proposal, in anticipation of wide public demand for their implementation.

Regards,

Dr Bonny Cassidy

0417 252 004

bonny.cassidy@gmail.com

15 Carroll St, North Melbourne VIC 3051

srlup - Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones Public Submissions

From: "Stephen White & Catriona Simson" <stephen.white.home@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 1:00 PM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones Public Submissions

To the Department of Planning NSW and The Government of NSW,

Broken Promises , Government and Planning NSW Fail the Community of
NSW

We write to you to voice our concern and opposition to the present legislation on the Coal Seam Gas industry in NSW.

The O'Farrell Government and the Planning Department of NSW fail to adequately legislate to protect the precious water, land and agricultural resources of NSW from the rapid and destructive development of the Coal Seam Gas Industry.

The science on the full impact of Coal Seam Gas extraction has not been assessed or adequately measured, we do not know what the actual impact will be on our valuable land and water resources. Looking at the evidence coming in from the Coal Seam Gas Developments in Queensland and the U.S.A. the health and environmental impacts from this industry are both alarming and destructive.

We face an uncertain future as the proposed Exclusion zones do not go far enough to protect our water, our land, the health of our community or our future food security.

Exclusion zones should apply to agricultural land and the associated farming enterprises across NSW.

The development of Coal Seam Gas is not an answer to our energy needs it is a "gold rush" industry with short term financial returns for a small number of people and long term environmental destruction for the whole community.

The Government and Planning Departments should be ashamed of such short term vision and apparent disregard for the future of our food, water and land resources.

Act now to legislate to protect NSW by extending the exclusion zones to cover agricultural land and water resources.

As a Resident of NSW it is alarming to witness the level of coal seam gas industry bullying and the corruption of Governments, restore our faith in good planning and governance by legislating to protect our wonderful state from the Coal Seam Gas Industry.

Yours Faithfully,

Catriona Simson.

srlup - subject: Submission to Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones.

From: Philippe Dupuy <dupuyphilip@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 12:42 PM
Subject: subject: Submission to Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones.

The Director Strategic Regional Policy

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

I am writing to urge you to consider the following issues as part of the current **Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones**.

Recommendation: That the entire Northern Rivers region of NSW is included in the Coal Seam Gas exclusion zones currently under consideration.

The diversity & sustainability of agriculture in this region contributes substantially to a valuable and resilient local economy that brings wealth into the region and creates employment and training opportunities for our communities. Agriculture occurs in a range of diverse forms across the Northern Rivers and flourishes as a result of the clean water, fertile soils and favourable climate in the region. The Northern Rivers is an important and somewhat unique seat for knowledge and practise of the permaculture and organic growing industry and, as such, is as worthy of protection from Coal Seam Gas as the viticulture and equine industries.

Tourism brings billions of dollars annually to the Northern Rivers region. Much of this is eco-tourism which is dependent on the preservation of the pristine and beautiful natural environments that occur in this region. Destination NSW has just acknowledged the value of this industry by investing \$21.6 million dollars in regional tourism in the Northern Rivers. Eco-tourism is a long – term sustainable and economically valuable industry for the Northern Rivers region and would be potentially destroyed by Coal Seam Gas. One of the key features that sustains it is the large number of scenic drives through peaceful and aesthetic landscapes - these would be substantially undermined by the presence of gas wells and associated infrastructure, especially the presence of large numbers big trucks on small country roads.

The Northern Rivers has immense irreplaceable ecological value including world heritage areas and identified *refugia* ecosystems. Not only are these values vital to our tourism industry, they provide priceless environmental services such as fresh air, clean water and fertile soils. These values are substantiated by at least four UN treaties signed by the Federal Government of Australia.

Aerial maps show that the Northern Rivers comprises large and smaller towns, villages, intentional communities and small landholdings scattered across the region in such a way that there is no part of the region that is non- residential. There are very few places where any Coal Seam Gas well and associated infrastructure would not be within 2km of an occupied dwelling. On this basis alone the entire Northern Rivers should be a Coal Seam Gas exclusion zone, as residents in this region are no less susceptible to the distress, disruption and potential health effects that support seclusion of residential zones in other areas of NSW.

Over 80% of residents in the Northern Rivers have strongly and clearly demonstrated that we will not consent to having our peaceful & productive lands and communities transformed into industrial wastelands by the Coal Seam Gas industry. There is clearly no social license for the development of a Coal Seam Gas industry in the Northern Rivers and this is another strong argument to create an exclusion zone around the entire Northern Rivers.

Yours sincerely

Philippe Dupuy

Mulvena rd

Larnook

NSW 2480

srlup - Coal Sea Gas

From: ARTHUR ROBERTS <arthurandm@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 12:41 PM
Subject: Coal Sea Gas

To Whom It May Concern,

Coal seam Gas and coal mining should not come anywhere near the populated areas. Having recently moved from the Hunter to the Port Macquarie area and the trouble being caused in that area should be restricted to areas of low population.

In the Hunter I was on the committee for Mining and Agriculture areas.

The mines have in numerous areas completely dried up the underground water supply and I feel sure that the coal seam gas can easily contaminate it also, thus affecting livestock production.

Their drilling has no thought to underground water pipes on properties, repairs to private roads damaged in wet weather by their continual use of the road after rain. To get it fixed is a major exercise.

Gates being left open, thus causing stock to walk out of their paddock.

In the case of the mining it was recognised that the Hunter River flats were of high production, being high in phosphate, but no consideration was given to a buffer zone around it thus causing black dust to contaminate everything and the

gas from the mines to rust everything metal. My own wife has now stopped coughing since leaving the Hunter. Once this country is ruined what is going to be used to produce food for our growing population? As a voter for Liberal/Country Party all my life I hope more consideration can be given to these important matters.

Yours sincerely,
Arthur Roberts

srlup - CSG EXCLUSION ZONES

From: "Donna Abbott" <dab47618@bigpond.net.au>

To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Date: 4/11/2013 12:39 PM

Subject: CSG EXCLUSION ZONES

I cannot understand how horses and grapes are more important than FOOD PRODUCTION and WATER !!

I know that the Government loves to support Gambling and Alcohol Consumption.....cause of the funding you receive from these 'business's'

Stop the Nonsense Stop thinking that the public do not understand what you are up to
You want a REVOLUTION Because that is exactly what you will cause by NOT stopping CSG all together ... No Conditions ... NO CSG AT ALL is wanted by your voting Public !!

Beware People Power ... It Causes Politicians Great Hell ... GET ON BOARD - BACK THE PEOPLE - NOT DESTRUCTIVE MINING COMPANIES

Made a Stand.....Stop making Australians look like Fools to the rest of the World !!

Honestly Yours

Concerned Citizen seriously considering emigrating out of here !!

srlop - Amendments required to the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: "Natalie Tydd" <nhtydd@gmail.com>
To: <srlop@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 12:21 PM
Subject: Amendments required to the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

11th April 2013

by email to srlop@planning.nsw.gov.au

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

It is completely unacceptable that the NSW Government acknowledged the risk and concern associated with Coal Seam Gas extraction yet only applied exclusion zones to *some* of its residents and two identified Critical Industry Clusters. The following amendments are not only desired but necessary if you wish to protect *all* NSW residents and the future of food production in this State.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around **all** residential dwellings. In fact this buffer should be increased to 4km.
2. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Tydd
 Bellata, NSW 2397

srlup - CSG submission

From: "sam nelson" <samnelson@mail.org>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 12:20 PM
Subject: CSG submission

Hi,

My name is Sam Nelson and I am writing this letter to show my concern regarding CSG mining in my area and throughout Australia.

I live in a place called Spring Hill which is just outside Orange in NSW 3 hours drive from Sydney. Our water as well as Lucknow's water is supplied by bore. I understand there are applications for CSG in my area and have a strong belief that my future and current water supply will be damaged to an extent where we will no longer be supplied with drinkable water. I have researched CSG to a great extent and understand the impacts it has on the environment below and above the ground.

I plead with you to look into the effects of CSG further and also consider that a 2km exclusion zone is not far enough due to the fact the water table travels a greater distance and if affected will have great impacts on the wider community.

Thank you for accepting this letter. If you wish to contact me you can via email or ph. 0403596807

Kind regards

Sam Nelson

srlup - Coal Seam Gas Exclusion zones

From: Ian Collins <iacollo13@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 12:28 PM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas Exclusion zones

Dear Sir/Madam,

I congratulate the Liberal government on its announcement to introduce a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential and critical industry cluster, for CSG exploration and mining. This is certainly a step in the right direction for the residents of NSW. I ask that the government remain firm in this and not be swayed by the noise of the mining interests.

I do ask that the Liberal government introduce a similar exclusion zone to ensure that there is no CSG exploration or mining in the water catchment areas. This was an election promise by Premier O'Farrell in 2009, and one that should be kept.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Collins

9 Clifton Avenue,
Glenbrook. 2773

srlup - Submission Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy

From: Sandra Harlor <sandraharlor@hotmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 12:36 PM
Subject: Submission Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy

To: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013
To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this submission on behalf of myself my family and my local community. We welcome the proposed changes as an important step in protecting critical regions of NSW. It is only right to protect NSW residents from the risks CSG mining may pose for them.

However this amendment does nothing to protect the fresh drinking water of those same residents.

2% of the state provides drinking water for 60% of the residents. We have grave concerns about the lack of protection for the water catchment for Sydney's 4 million people. we live in a restricted area and have major limitations as to what we can do above the surface and yet no-one knows for sure what is happening below ground with CSG.

Within these catchments all activities are regulated by the Catchment Authority, and rightly so. Water Catchment regulations state that any activity, whether it be recreational or commercial, is only permitted if it is deemed to be either neutral or beneficial to the catchment. No one can argue that coal seam gas mining is neutral or beneficial to the catchment.

The SEPP amendments should be altered to include a 2 km buffer around ALL residential dwellings. Why should some who lives in a small rural village not be offered the same protection as large town or city dwellers?

The "opt out" right offered to councils may have been included for all the right reasons but is fraught with problems. It encourages intense lobbying of councils who increasingly are cash strapped and carries a real risk of corruption. We ask that this be removed from the amendment, an "opt in" clause could be considered.

The identification of critical regions of the state is very welcome but what is more critical then food producing regions, farmers need the security that their properties, including their water supply, are not threatened by coal seam gas mining.

Why would you exempt viticulture but not tourism.

We ask that the amendment include all forms of unconventional gas including shale and tight gas, it should also apply to all coal seam gas projects that have not yet commenced operation.

Kind Regards,
Sandra Harlor.
Assistant Editor Community In4mer
0415 458 462

12 Twelfth Street
Warragamba 2752

srlup - SEPP submission

From: amanda biffin <amandabiffin@yahoo.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 12:37 PM
Subject: SEPP submission

To whom it may concern,

My husband and I welcome the proposed changes as an important step in protecting critical regions of NSW. It is only right to protect NSW residents from the risks CSG mining may pose for them.

However this amendment does nothing to protect the fresh drinking water of those same residents. 2% of the state provides drinking water for 60% of the residents. Within these catchments all activities are regulated by the Catchment Authority, and rightly so. Water Catchment regulations state that any activity, whether it be recreational or commercial, is only permitted if it is deemed to be either neutral or beneficial to the catchment. No one can argue that coal seam gas mining is neutral or beneficial to the catchment.

I argue that "Water Catchment" areas are a "Critical Industry Cluster." It is of national significance that is potentially significantly impacted by mining or CSG development. It is WATER the essence of life.

Also the SEPP amendments should be altered to include a 2 km buffer around ALL residential dwellings. Why should someone who lives in a small rural village not be offered the same protection as large town or city dwellers?

The "opt out" right offered to councils may have been included for all the right reasons but is fraught with problems. It encourages intense lobbying of councils who increasingly are cash strapped and carries a real risk of corruption. We ask that this be removed from the amendment, an "opt in" clause could be considered.

The identification of critical regions of the state is very welcome but what is more critical than food producing regions, farmers need the security that their properties, including their water supply, are not threatened by coal

seam gas mining.

why would you exempt viticulture but not tourism.

we ask that the amendment include all forms of unconventional gas including shale and tight gas, it should also apply to all coal seam gas projects that have not yet commenced operation.

Yours Faithfully,

Amanda and Brett Biffin

srlup - Submission re Proposed amendments to Mining SEPP

From: christine clark <chrisclar@yahoo.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 12:44 PM
Subject: Submission re Proposed amendments to Mining SEPP

NSW Government
Dept. of Planning and Infrastructure.

Dear Director of Planning and Infrastructure.

It is extremely heartening that your department is planning amendments to the Mining SEPP which provide protection for zoned residential areas and critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters.

I am proposing that you also make provision for the exclusion of any CSG and other inappropriate mining activity on farms, rural properties, vital food growing land, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas by taking the following measures:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you for providing the opportunity for NSW citizens to have a voice on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,
Christine Clark.

143 Burringbar Road, Burringbar NSW 2483 Tel: 02 66771614

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: William Sadler <wgsadler2@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 12:46 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013
CC: ""Sadler, Cate"" <cmsadler2@bigpond.com>, "SEAN GOUGH" <sgough@wage.org.au>

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy,

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

We are writing to lodge a submission in respect of the **Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013**.

The proposed changes provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters.

However, they do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow council's to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining.

Accordingly, we believe:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation

**Yours sincerely,
Will and Cate Sadler**

srlup - Not far enough

From: Brian <bri@exemail.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 12:56 PM
Subject: Not far enough

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: graham b <graham_2u@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 1:00 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

I wish to make submission regarding

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I oppose all expansion of the coal seam gas, of fracking generally and of unconventional gas industry in both residential and agricultural land as I believe from the investigations I have done, looking at both sides of the argument, have alarmed me that this industry is a risk to our water resources, air quality, agricultural, tourism and social way of life.

I believe that there are no detailed base line studies carried out to examine the effects on our environment, social effects etc of coal seam gas mining and unconventional gas mining.

I am alarmed at the risk being taken from all aspects of disturbance to water tables, holding pond run-offs, reticulation of produced water poisoned with chemical etc being proposed by the mining industry and believe heavier penalties and controls are needed to protect our already fragile environment.

As a result of my investigations I believe that a complete overhaul of mining licensing is necessary to bring csg and unconventional gas mining into line with farming, social and environmental safeguards that are being called for from the wider Australian community, that the existing regulations and penalties are not targeted

I oppose the forced entry of mining companies on private land as 87% of residence have opposed all forms of unconventional gas mining as they risk mental, physical and social effects on communities, that farmers should have a right to refuse entry to their properties to protect the value and sustainability of their farming businesses.

I reject the spin by the Minister that gas resources are drying up in N.S.W when clearly the broad objective of the gas industry is about export, NOT domestic supply....I could accept where several unfracked mines could supply domestic supply but I oppose the 10's of 1000's of proposed mines in

order to supply export contracts as clearly stated in media interviews of mining representatives.

I have looked seriously into the so called safe science of 'fracking' for csgas and believe it is an unsafe and experimental process condemned by many experts and governments around the world and I am alarmed that Australian governments are allowing any fracking to be done anywhere in Australia.

Lastly I find it unbelievable that so called community representatives in government and mining companies can subject future generations to the maintenance of mining sites FOREVER! with no benefit of any description to those future generations, that the rush to rape our country, its communities and its environment for short term supply to foreign countries is a formula that future generations will despise all those that didn't oppose this obscenity.

Yours sincerely
Graham Bale
Lismore
2480

Suranga Wanasundera
34 Hawkesbury Road
Springwood NSW 277

12/04/2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a deeply concerned resident of Springwood, in the Blue Mountains. I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

Our land, water, and air is under threat from proposed mining, and the state environmental planning policy is lacking adequate safeguards to ensure the long-term safety of our health and environment. People in our community and across the country are calling for action against in particular, CSG mining.

I would also like to add that the time limit given for community feedback is very minimal for such a important issue and strongly recommend extending it to allow more time. There's also a lack of awareness and promotion in mainstream media of the fact that community feedback is being sought in this regard.

Key points of concern:

- The **changes do not cover impacts of CSG development** on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.
- Proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester. **Changes should apply to both existing and new developments.**
- There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the **health effects of CSG mining** and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. Allowing CSG development to occur within built-up areas that may not be zoned as 'residential', such as Fullerton Cove where 86 families live within a 2km radius of the proposed drilling, is extremely risky. 2km is negligible for the effects of air, water and noise such as deep drilling - **communities should be put first, before mining.**
- The SEPP does not take into account any **impacts of CSG mining operations within water catchment areas**, including in Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Special Areas. The Apex

CSG project in the Illawarra escarpment will be drilling close to three key water catchments including the SCA Woronora Special Area, which provides water for the people of Sydney and Wollongong.

- To extract **CSG**, millions of litres of water are pumped from deep beneath the earth, **threatening ancient aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water**. The long-term impact of these activities are both unknown and potentially irreversible.
- **I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development**, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee" . We can live without gas, not without water!
- The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. **Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas**. Australia is a beautifully natural land with vast bush land - it's our responsibility to protect it for the future generations, from mass commercialisation.
- Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to "opt out" of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. While empowering local councils to have a say on development is inherently a good idea, **this clause would allow gas companies to circumvent the safeguards by pressuring councils to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment**.

Key points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment:

- **Give more power to the communities to have a say in any proposed developments. The current system places far too much responsibility and reliance on policy makers to do the right thing.**
- Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, **this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places. 2km is simply not sufficient!!**
- There is a **risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment**. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
- Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. **The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining**. The government should put in place

policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.

- Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should **place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted**, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
- In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to **prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales**.
- Exclusion zones should include **protections for our public lands**, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
- **Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland** by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
- The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or **provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction**. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
- The amendment **should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone** to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
- The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. **All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment** to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

I urge you to take these issues seriously and put in place more adequate measures to safeguard our health and natural environment.

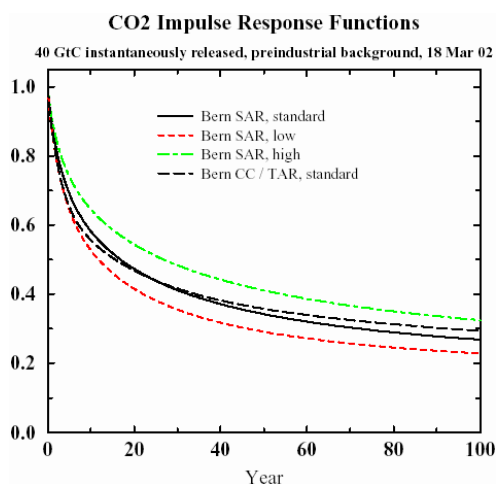
Concerned citizen,

Suranga Wanasundera

Submission on CSG exclusion zones in NSW

Main points:

- (1) A 2 km exclusion zone seems to be arbitrary. Why not 3, 5 or 10 kms? Underground geology is not homogeneous. So it could be that in certain or even many cases the exclusion zone should be more than 2 kms. Critical for water supply is the location of fault lines which could potentially connect aquifers at different depths. Other criteria should be developed by the geological survey department. The draft legislation does not seem to be science based.
- (2) Agricultural land should be mapped and included in exclusion zones. This is especially important as declining oil production (now demonstrated by closing refineries) will lead to diesel shortages and therefore additional pressures on the only sector of the economy which is to produce essential food for the urban population. Food is more important than company profits and royalties.
- (3) There are no criteria defined to demarcate Critical Industry Cluster zones.
- (4) It is not logical to exempt coal mining activities from the exclusion zones.
- (5) Councils should not be able to recommend exemptions from exclusion zones. This is because it will allow the State government to exert pressure on Councils to make these recommendations.
- (6) The maps do not include any accompanying calculations how much gas would stay in the ground as a result of the exclusion zones. Only this would allow to determine the potential reduction in green house gases. In fact, the NSW Planning Department has no objectives at all to which extent CO₂ from gas should be limited. Nor has the issue of compensation claims as a result of global warming damage been taken into account.



<< 30% of CO₂ stays in the atmosphere for more than 100 years

Who will remove this CO₂ , when and at which cost?

Once the ocean waters have warmed up, the heat will stay there for 1,000s of years and extreme weather events will continue and worsen for future generations. Today's decisions makers put themselves on the wrong side of the history ledger.

<http://unfccc.int/resource/brazil/carbon.html>

- (7) The impact of earthquakes has not been studied and included in the definition of exclusion zones. There is research that coal mining has triggered the Newcastle earthquake
<http://www.smh.com.au/news/environment/coalmining-set-off-newcastle-earthquake-researchers/2007/01/08/1168104923457.html>

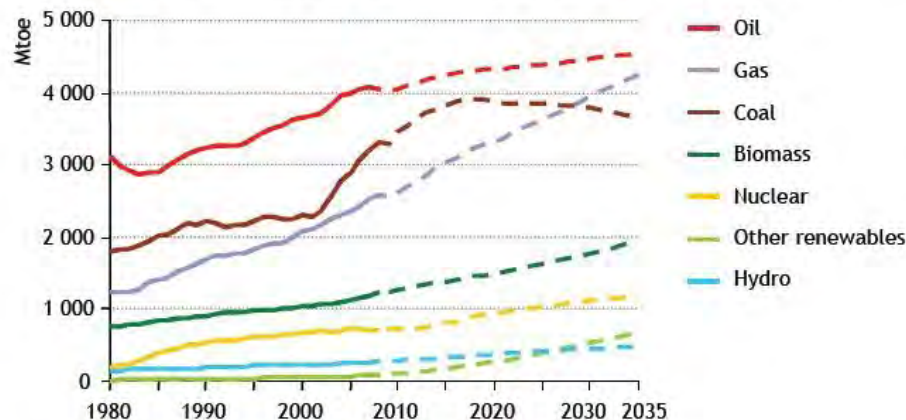
Prepared by

Attachment: Why Coal Seam Gas will not reduce CO2 emissions

Total global CO2 emissions will be reduced by LNG exports from coal seam gas (CSG) only if there are binding intergovernmental agreements in place which force destination countries to leave an energy equivalent amount of coal in the ground, **for good**. But this is NOT being done. CO2 from CSG is just added on top of that from coal. The numbers to prove this are in this graph from the International Energy Agency (Paris)

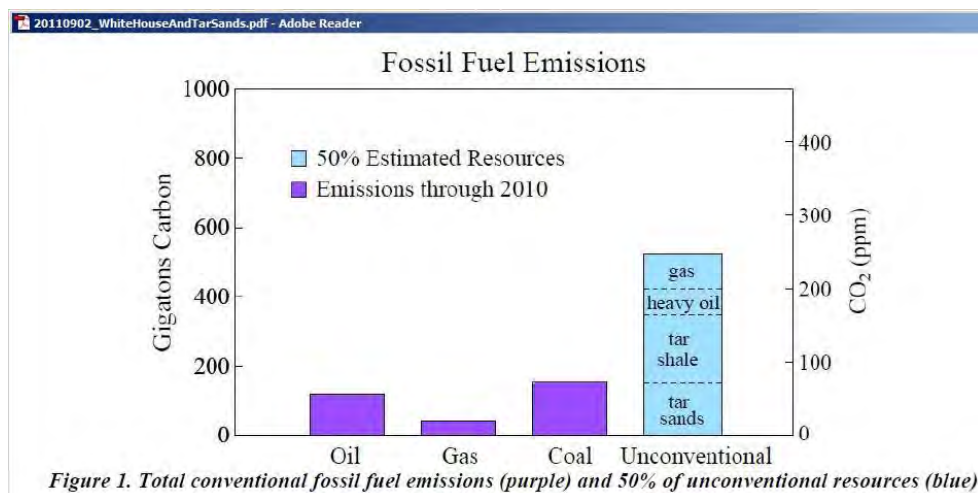
www.worldenergyoutlook.org/media/weowebsite/2011/WE02011_GoldenAgeofGasReport.pdf

Figure 1.1 World primary energy demand by fuel in the GAS Scenario



Under the assumption that burning CH₄ produces 50% of the CO₂ emissions of coal, then the growth rate of gas should not be more than twice the decline rate of coal. This is clearly NOT the case in the above scenario, even after 2015.

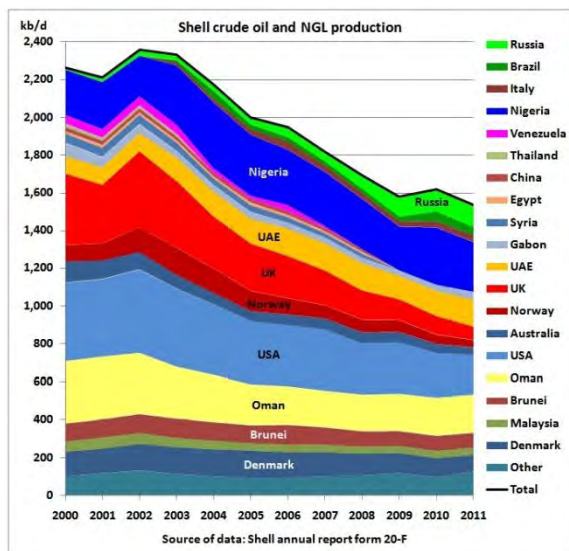
Climatologist James Hansen has calculated that if only 50% of unconventional gas is burnt that would increase CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere by 50 ppm. We cannot afford this.



http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/mailings/2011/20110902_WhiteHouseAndTarSands.pdf

With all these extreme weather events <http://climatecommission.gov.au/report/the-angry-summer/> around the world we may start to understand this:

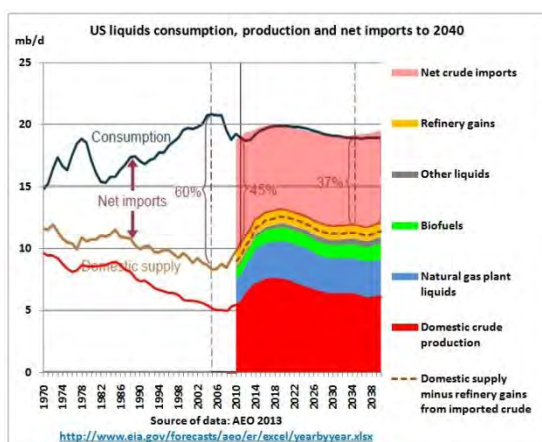
8/3/2010 NASA climatologist James Hansen at Sydney Uni: "Australia doesn't agree now that they got to stop their coal, but they are going to agree. I can guarantee you that within a decade or so because the climate change will become so strongly apparent that's going to become imperative" 20 seconds video clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMD2sd0IPeg>



In year #9 of peak oil, Australian refineries are closing. Shell's oil production peaked already in 2002

11/3/2013 International oil companies' oil production peaked in 2004 and declined by 2.1% pa
<http://crudeoilpeak.info/international-oil-companies-oil-production-peaked-in-2004-and-declined-by-2-1-pa>

Around 1/2 of Australia's diesel and 2/3 of petrol imports come from Singapore which is almost totally dependent on crude oil imports from the Middle East. The same applies to the rest of fuel imports from South Korea and Japan. When the next oil war starts in the ME there will be fuel shortages within weeks.



US shale oil hype. A typical shale oil well depletes by around 70-80% in just a couple of years. The public is completely misinformed by confusing energy (from oil plus gas) with oil only. The graph (left) from the US Department of Energy on oil production shows this:

13/12/2012

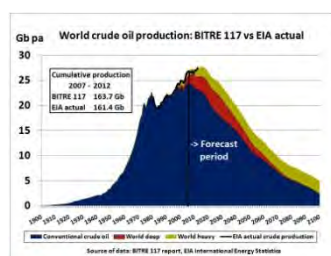
US still needs to import 50% of its crude oil requirements despite increasing shale oil production
<http://crudeoilpeak.info/us-still-needs-to-import-50-percent-of-its-crude-oil-requirements-despite-increasing-shale-oil-production>

In order to replace Australia's fuel consumption by natural gas as transport fuel, the energy equivalent of **5.5 LNG trains** are needed. **Australia exports itself liquid fuel poor!**

9/5/2012 Queensland plans to export more than 10 times the gas NSW needs (part 3)
<http://crudeoilpeak.info/queensland-plans-to-export-more-than-10-times-the-gas-nsw-needs-part-3>

13/10/2011 NSW gas as transport fuel. Where are the plans?
<http://crudeoilpeak.info/nsw-gas-as-transport-fuel-where-are-the-plans>

Howard's wrong decisions on offshore gas exports start to hit transport sector now
<http://crudeoilpeak.info/howards-wrong-decisions-on-offshore-gas-exports-start-to-hit-transport-sector-now>



Under Rudd, BITRE calculated peak oil around 2016 but Resource Minister Ferguson did not publish it. This is an update:

25/2/2013 How good was the Australian peak oil report BITRE 117? (peaky leaks part 4) <http://crudeoilpeak.info/how-good-was-the-australian-peak-oil-report-bitre-117>

Summary and conclusion: Australia squanders its gas in exports which are detrimental on environmental, climate change and liquid fuel security grounds. Unless there is a fundamental change in strategy to solve these interconnected problems, events and circumstances will one day wake up the public to some bad surprises.

srlup - CSG Mining Amendments -Comments

From: Jules Lewin <juleslewin@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 1:25 PM
Subject: CSG Mining Amendments -Comments

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Stokers Siding NSW2484

srlup - No CSG in our prime farming land

From: "Keiran Knight" <carbeenfarming@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 1:26 PM
Subject: No CSG in our prime farming land

To the NSW Government,

We will not tolerate Coal Seam Gas coming into our area and we are disgusted that you the NSW Government are allowing this evil industry to proceed at such an alarming pace. We are farmers who have produced food & fibre on our land in the Wee Waa district for five generations. We are very aware of the negative impacts that the CSG industry will have on our groundwater, our health, our land and our livelihoods.

At the very least why are you not enforcing the 2km exclusion zones to agricultural land & farming enterprises? Farmers are not second rate citizens, we are feeding the masses.

There is no way that CSG should be allowed anywhere near our prime farming land and it is completely ludicrous that the Government is allowing Santos & other mining companies to go ahead with their gas wells in New South Wales after all of the serious problems that are occurring in Coal Seam Gas areas in Southern Queensland.

Myself, my family and hundreds of my neighbours and fellow farmers who live in this district will do everything in our power to stop CSG coming anywhere near our farming country.

Nobody wants CSG, it is not needed, it will ruin the agricultural sector so please stop it!

Regards,

Mrs Keiran Knight
'Carbeen'
Wee Waa
02 67955114

srlup - Submission on draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones

From: Gwilym Summers <gwilym.summers@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 1:36 PM
Subject: Submission on draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones
CC: Gwilym Summers <gwilym.summers@gmail.com>

Minister for Planning

I live on a farm near Lismore, where I grow pecan nut trees. I have been to the gasfields in Queensland and talked to a number of farmers who's lives have been seriously impacted by coal seam gas. This is the reason that I don't agree with the SEPP amendments to include a 2km buffer zone around residential dwellings. My submission -

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include at least a minimum 2km buffer around all residential dwellings, not just residential zoned lands.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments, and sensitive environmental areas. Why? Because our land and water are the lifeblood of Australia.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining, and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards

Gwilym Summers
Eltham, NSW 2480

srlup - Proposed amendments to Mining State Environmental Planning Policy

From: Justin McKinnon <mckoinon@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 1:37 PM
Subject: Proposed amendments to Mining State Environmental Planning Policy

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

Whilst I welcome the fact the the State Government is beginning to acknowledge the potential threats of CSG mining to water, land and community members, I feel that the proposed exclusion zones do not go far enough in protecting us and our future.

The exclusion zones must also include catchment areas, agricultural land to ensure food security and sensitive environmental areas. As well as a larger, more precautionary buffer around residential areas. These measures should also be extended to coal mining and all gas extraction, which I think are unduly going under the radar due to the CSG debate. We really can't compromise our future, and especially our water supply, which will soon be as scarce and far more valuable than coal, for the short term profits of industry.

I'd also like to see the right for councils to veto matched with the right for councils to list new prohibited areas. This clause is clearly corrupt and unfair. That or the right to veto should be removed.

I feel this is one of the most important issues currently and without a sensible, precautionary, long term vision for the future health and resource availability to our nation. Please don't let this legislation just another political game for votes, or placating people whilst adhering to the profits for private company instead of looking after the people of NSW.

Yours truly,

Justin McKinnon
13 Kareela Road, Woonona
NSW, 2517.

Michelle Wanasundera
34 Hawkesbury Road
Springwood NSW 277

12/04/2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a deeply concerned resident of Springwood, in the Blue Mountains. I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

Our land, water, and air is under threat from proposed mining, and the state environmental planning policy is lacking adequate safeguards to ensure the long-term safety of our health and environment. People in our community and across the country are calling for action against in particular, CSG mining.

I would also like to add that the time limit given for community feedback is very minimal for such a important issue and strongly recommend extending it to allow more time. There's also a lack of awareness and promotion in mainstream media of the fact that community feedback is being sought in this regard.

Key points of concern:

- The **changes do not cover impacts of CSG development** on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.
- Proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester.
Changes should apply to both existing and new developments.
- There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the **health effects of CSG mining** and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. Allowing CSG development to occur within built-up areas that may not be zoned as 'residential', such as Fullerton Cove where 86 families live within a 2km radius of the proposed drilling, is extremely risky. 2km is negligible for the effects of air, water and noise such as deep drilling - **communities should be put first, before mining.**
- The SEPP does not take into account any **impacts of CSG mining operations within water catchment areas**, including in Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Special Areas. The Apex CSG project in the Illawarra escarpment will be drilling close to three key water catchments including the SCA Woronora Special Area, which provides water for the people of Sydney and Wollongong.

- To extract **CSG**, millions of litres of water are pumped from deep beneath the earth, **threatening ancient aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water**. The long-term impact of these activities are both unknown and potentially irreversible.
- **I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development**, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee" . We can live without gas, not without water!
- The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. **Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas**. Australia is a beautifully natural land with vast bush land - it's our responsibility to protect it for the future generations, from mass commercialisation.
- Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to "opt out" of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. While empowering local councils to have a say on development is inherently a good idea, this **clause would allow gas companies to circumvent the safeguards by pressuring councils to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment**.

Key points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment:

- **Give more power to the communities to have a say in any proposed developments. The current system places far too much responsibility and reliance on policy makers to do the right thing.**
- Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, **this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places. 2km is simply not sufficient!!**
- There is a **risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment**. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
- Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. **The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining**. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
- Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should **place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted**, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.

- In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to **prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.**
- Exclusion zones should include **protections for our public lands**, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
- **Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland** by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
- The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or **provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction.** The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
- The amendment **should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone** to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
- The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. **All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment** to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

I urge you to take these issues seriously and put in place more adequate measures to safeguard our health and natural environment.

Concerned citizen,

Michelle Wanasundera

srlup

From: graham b <graham_2u@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 1:42 PM

The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

I wish to make submission regarding

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I oppose all expansion of the coal seam gas and unconventional gas industry in both residential and agricultural land as I believe from the investigations I have done looking at both sides of the argument, just as a concerned citizen, have alarmed me that this industry is a risk to our water resources, air quality, agricultural, tourism and social way of life.

I believe that there are no detailed base line studies carried out to examine the effects on our environment, social effects etc of coal seam gas mining and unconventional gas mining.

I believe as a result of my investigations that a complete overhaul of mining licensing is necessary to bring csg and unconventional gas mining into line with farming, social and environmental safeguards that are being called for from the wider Australian community

I oppose the forced entry of mining companies on private land as 87% of residence have opposed all forms of unconventional gas mining, risking mental and physical and social effects on communities

I reject the spin by the Minister that gas resources are drying up in N.S.W when clearly the broad objective of the gas industry is about export, NOT domestic supply....I could accept where several unfracked mines could supply domestic supply but I oppose the 10's of 1000's of proposed mines in order to supply export contracts as clearly stated in media interviews of mining representatives.

I have looked seriously into the so called safe science of 'fracking' for csgas and believe it is an unsafe and experimental process condemned by many experts and governments around the world and I am alarmed that Australian governments are allowing any fracking to be done anywhere in Australia.

Lastly I find it unbelievable that so called community representatives in government and mining

companies can subject future generations to the maintenance of mining sites FOREVER with no benefit of any description to those future generations, that the rush to rape our country and its environment for a short term supply to for

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

iegn

To:
The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Emailed 12/04/13 to srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Draft State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

Referring to the above mentioned public consultation draft please find the following major concerns.

1. Sydney's water catchment areas have not been protected. Protecting our water supply is most important. Coal Seam Gas should be prohibited in water catchment areas. Please include in Schedule 1 Prohibited Development, to protect all Sydney's water catchment areas from Coal Seam Gas development and Mining.
2. All Residential zones existing and future should be included as part of Schedule 1 Prohibited Development, to protect all land within residential zones existing and future and land within 2 kilometres of a residential zone existing or future, from Coal Seam Gas development and Mining. This would provide certainty for the Community who are being currently affected by potential CSG projects.
3. All identified food producing land existing and future should be included as part of Schedule 1 Prohibited Development, to protect all food producing land existing and future and land within 2 kilometres of food producing land existing and future, from Coal Seam Gas development and Mining.
4. Clause 9A refers to Schedule 2 and Clause 20 refers to Part 3A (which has been repealed). These clauses are very confusing and are of great concern. It should not be up to one Council whether an area of land can be exempted from the Coal seam gas development prohibited in certain exclusion zones. For example Camden Gas Project Stage 3, Northern Expansion. (Currently suspended) This affects land shown on Land Map - Sheet RGA_001 and in Campbelltown's LGA. Sydney's populace as a whole has a stake in protecting water catchment areas, residential zones and food producing land. Schedule 2 destroys any certainty that Schedule 1 provides.

My major concern is that this Draft SEPP (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013 does not address the three issues that are most important-

1. To protect Sydney's water catchment areas.
2. To protect residential areas.
3. To protect food producing land.

Yours sincerely

R. Pacione
Resident of Ingleburn NSW

srlup - submission on the Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

From: "Pat Schultz" <pat.schultz@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 1:57 PM
Subject: submission on the Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

All people living in NSW deserve the same protection in caring for their health and wellbeing. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings. People who live in remote areas may not have the same voting power, but this should not mean that they don't have the same rights.

Water is the most precious recourse in Australia. Without water our land is useless, including in regions with excellent soil. Provisions should include exclusions for all identified water catchments. Groundwater must be protected both from pollution and being depleted to pump out gas.

Producing food for Australia is more important than coal seam gas extraction. It employs more people gives our nation food security. Provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands.

The area of land reserved for the natural environment is shrinking and becoming poor quality. Australia has one of the highest rate of extinction of species in the world. Provisions should include exclusions for all identified significant environmental areas such as Leard Forest AT Maules Creek near Narrabri.

Mining for all types of fossil fuels can be equally damaging to farmland and the environment. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

Many existing projects were passed at a time when there were no enforceable regulations to manage the potential damage by mining. These projects must be brought into line with the community expectation in protecting the environment. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Pat Schultz
177 Brown St
Armidale NSW 2350
ph (02) 67725852
M 0428725852
pat.schultz@bigpond.com

srlup - Submission on CSG

From: Stella Byrne <stellaus@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>, "office@hazzard...
Date: 12/04/2013 2:04 PM
Subject: Submission on CSG

My name is Stella Byrne.
 My Address is 399 Fernvale rd
 Murwillumbah
 NSW
 2484

I am a concerned Australian citizen who has a long history in the environmental industry. I am an ex-director of Global-Releaf linked with the American Forestry Association the oldest environmental group in the USA. I am a scientist, BSc[hons]MNIMH. I wish to make a contribution to the coal seam gas debate.[CSG]

I am pleased that in response to the huge public outcry against coal seam gas, I believe the majority of voters do not want to see it in Australia at all and that the Government of NSW has made concessions to public feeling. In order to make these concessions politically worthwhile I urge you to give more teeth to your recommendations. The Australian people are intelligent and able to see through electioneering window dressing. To not listen to the ever rising tide of opposition is not only political suicide but gives power to the rising tide of political unrest and reactionary political ferment. Surely this is a political tide to avoid at this time. I suggest several points are addressed;

1]Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places. The artesian wells system is a continuous underground system of waterways. It is the lifeblood of Australia. To allow any contamination of these underground waterways is tantamount to destroying the future for current and future generations of Australians.

There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed with immediate effect.

Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.

This is a step in the right direction to protect urban areas that are zoned as residential and critical rural industries. But, the change does not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester. It is a highly irresponsible act to allow the continuation of the expansion of coal seam gas after the Four Corners programme showed that

the only scientific research already performed by Southern Cross University came up with results illustrating the seepage of methane from vast tracts of land. This will further contribute to Global warming. Methane [CH₄] is at least 20x more damaging in its contribution to the greenhouse effect caused by CO₂ emissions. Seepage on such large scale mining developments will have a significant effect on a Global scale thus destabilising our climate even more and making a mockery of carbon emission programmes. It may also result in geysers of flames as the temperature soars and gas emissions self ignite. Contaminated waterways and springs will not only kill off wildlife but human health will be affected by drinking from downstream catchment areas. The Murray Darling is particularly at risk as are all the towns along its length. Adelaide and the fruit growing industry of Mildura will be at risk as contaminants build up and have a synergistic effect over time producing long length aromatic compounds which will be carcinogenic. No independent scientific studies have been done to investigate these issues. All of which is totally unacceptable. There may well be individual accountability if these measures are allowed to go ahead without the full hearted consent of the electorate.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. Except that many and diverse health effects have been reported in the USA where coal seam gas extraction has occurred. Allowing CSG development to occur within built-up areas that may not be zoned as 'residential', such as Fullerton Cove where 86 families live within a 2km radius of the proposed drilling, is unacceptable and smacks of these controls on residential areas being nothing more than political window dressing.

The SEPP does not take into account any impacts of CSG mining operations within water catchment areas, including in Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Special Areas. The Apex CSG project in the Illawarra escarpment will be drilling close to three key water catchments including the SCA Woronora Special Area, which provides water for the people of Sydney and Wollongong.

It is impossible to extract coal seam gas from beneath the earth without affecting ancient Aquifers and polluting huge quantities of water with aromatic volatile and poisonous compounds. It seems to be a physical impossibility to extract coal seam gas without lowering the water table and polluting the sub aquifers. This will be an environmental problem for generations to come especially in Sydney and Wollongong, will cost lives and livelihoods as food production and general health will suffer.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009:

"The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee"^[1]

The latest speech during the recent [April 2013] right wing 'think tank' by Tony Abbot shows a firm commitment by the Liberals to encourage and allow CSG mining on a large scale.

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people and wildlife of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas. Recent revelations about methane seepage from Southern Cross University shows that CSG will affect our wildlife and destroy the unique diversity we currently enjoy. The pollution of our waterways will significantly affect water catchments and the diversity of fresh water species.

Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to "opt out" of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. While empowering local councils to have a say on development is inherently a good idea, this clause would allow gas companies to

circumvent the safeguards by pressuring councils to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment. Here in Murwillumbah we are no strangers to the way developers and big business interests can override the democratic principles of the electorate. On a larger scale there is no way that the people of Australia will allow this destructive exploitation of our natural resources to occur for the short term gain of foreign investors.

SUMMARY

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->There is a risk of exploitation of the council “opt out” clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->3. <!--[endif]-->Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->4. <!--[endif]-->Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->5. <!--[endif]-->In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->6. <!--[endif]-->Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->7. <!--[endif]-->Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->8. <!--[endif]-->The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->9. <!--[endif]-->The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone

to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.

The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at r

<!--[if !supportLists]-->10. <!--[endif]-->Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->11. <!--[endif]-->In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->12. <!--[endif]-->Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->13. <!--[endif]-->Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->14. <!--[endif]-->The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->15. <!--[endif]-->The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.

I hope that these issues are addressed and the electorate are heard.

Yours sincerely,

Stella Byrne B.Sc[Hons] MNIMH

<!--[if !supportFootnotes]-->

<!--[endif]-->

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srlup - Submission on proposed Mining SEPP amendments

From: Steve Phillips <sjphillips@fastmail.fm>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 2:06 PM
Subject: Submission on proposed Mining SEPP amendments

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is a submission on the proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP, to implement coal seam gas exclusion zones. I support the exclusion zones, but I submit that they need to be broadened and strengthened. Specifically:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings in NSW, not just zoned residential areas. Rural people must be afforded the same level of protection as urban people, as a matter of principal.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas. Otherwise this clause is just a deliberate loop hole for coal seam gas companies.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas. Protection of viticultural and equine Critical Industry Clusters is good, but many other areas and industries deserve equal protection.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas. These other forms of mining carry extensive impacts on air, water, and land, similar to CSG, and must also be restricted.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Sincerely,
Steve Phillips
167 Parry Street
Hamilton 2303

From: Beverley Crossley <bevcrossley@live.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 2:07 PM
Subject: RESPONSE to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy to implement CSG exclusion zones.

Attention: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

I live in paradise, on a small acreage in the Northern Rivers region, that sustains me on all levels. I pick and preserve fruit and nuts from my orchard. I enjoy and photograph abundant nature.

If I drive for ten minutes I encounter rich agricultural and horticultural enterprises. Sleek dairy and beef cattle graze in lush pastures, soy bean crops flourish, along with fields of sugar cane, all fed a major river system. There's a vineyard nearby.

Further afield, macadamia orchards, some of the oldest in the state, thrive. Avocado trees have long graced the hills with their dark foliage. Local coffee brands have gained a national and international market. Pecan plantations are becoming more obvious, and the town shops and markets carry a couple of local brands of dry land rice. That's just a few of our wonderful products.

For recreation I have the choice of pristine beaches where I am often the only walker. Or I can drive into glorious rainforests and sit beside thundering waterfalls. I can drive to the closest capital city along a spectacular, world heritage route. My region is a 'refugia', a unique area whose genetic diversity dates back to the Gondwana link, enjoying a habitable climate when other regions were hostile.

Unfortunately, that paradise has been invaded by a destructive, deadly threat; unconventional gas mining. Driven by greed and an obscene haste to exploit and export a resource that has been securely locked away underground, it is an industry out of control.

Governments at the state and federal level are involved in a blatant conjuring trick; supporting this dirty industry while appearing to act on behalf of the communities which elected them. It is about the latest sleight of hand from the New South Wales government exclusion zones, that I wish to comment.

Driving through my region, one would assume that it would be the rich heritage described above that governments would hasten to protect. But no, exclusions zones have been developed to provide a buffer and political sop for city dwellers. After all, cities are where the majority of voters live.

They do provide protection for some rural pursuits; horse studs and vineyards, but not food production industries. How strange a logic is this?

Nothing protects me, or the ventures and natural treasures that surround me, other than the will of a community determined to resist an industry that has no place in our region. The State government has come up with a gateway process with no gate and an aquifer protection policy that offers no protection from unconventional gas mining, the major threat to our water.

The only acceptable solution for me and 85% of the community in which I live, is a complete moratorium on unconventional gas mining. The only sane exclusion zone would cover the whole of New South Wales.

Please don't allow my paradise to become a paradise lost!

Beverley Crossley
The Old Church
Tatham NSW, 2471

srlup - SUBMISSION TO NSW GOVERNMENT TO BAN COAL SEAM GAS EXPLORATION.

From: "Shirley Schwager" <mareeba@activ8.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 2:08 PM
Subject: SUBMISSION TO NSW GOVERNMENT TO BAN COAL SEAM GAS EXPLORATION.

To Whom It May Concern

As a Family, living on the North West Plains of NSW, we wish to make a submission to the NSW State Government urging them to ban the exploration of Coal Seam Gas.

We have a number of concerns of gas mining. We are concerned of the Health impacts, the water impacts and impacts on livestock, which are yet to be determined. As a result, we believe exclusion zones need to apply to Agricultural Land and Farming Enterprises in our area. not to mention the environmental impacts which will be many if CSG exploration is allowed to prosper! There is no way this 'new' and unsustainable industry should be allowed to interfere with the existing and sustainable Agricultural Industry that us and our forbearers have worked so hard to establish.

While many CSG Companies deny using the method of fracking and deny destroying water resources, this is completely untrue!! When the aquifers become contaminated with chemicals and gas leaks, then there is no way of correcting this. This is evident in the report by ABC's "Four Corners" in recent days, where gas is bubbling up in the fresh river water of the Condamine River in Queensland (CSG Exploration is taking place in that area!!). In this program it was also evident, that the underground water levels had been dramatically drawn down. If this is allowed, then there will be major impacts for those using underground water for farming, stock and domestic purposes. The continued failure of industry to guarantee safe gas extraction leaves the NSW with no alternative but to ban CSG extraction in our area.

We are deeply concerned for our Water Supply. We live on fertile natural Flood Plains. These Plains are flooded and serve as a recharged area for our underground water system. Being part of the Murray Darling Basin, we have both Sub-Artesian (groundwater) and Artesian Water supply. The underground water supply is used for both watering stock, and domestic purposes including growing a garden and vegetables, showering, washing, bathing, drinking and cleaning our teeth! We cannot afford to place at risk the quality of this precious resource.

Our family has made a significant investment, not only in farm infrastructure, but also in intellectual capital to develop the landholding to increase productive capacity. We have developed, and continue to develop, a succession plan for the landholding which involves our 3 children working to position themselves within the business. This devotion to education and the sacrifice by family members to build a long term plan for the farm and it's associated businesses is an unquantifiable commitment by our family to our farming enterprise and to the north west slopes of NSW.

We have developed our farm and homestead to be not only a place for use to work and live during our working life, but also as a place to retire and to enjoy the natural landscape we have fostered during our tenureship. As custodians of the land we have preserved many of its natural features and look forward to passing these on to our children and grandchildren so they are able to enjoy the tranquillity that our farm has afforded to us. CSG will undisputedly destroy the landscape we have served to protect and to pass on to our future generations.

As producers of prime lambs, the quality of our product is of utmost importance to the consumers we

supply. The same can be attributed to the consumers of our wool, beef and grains. The preservation of the natural landscape provides our consumers with the assurance that our lambs are raised in free ranging natural landscapes and these landscapes are a key feature of our quality guarantee. Quality assurances of our domestic food production should never be compromised in the pursuit of CSG, and any CSG in our area will serve to destroy the reputation we have worked for so long to establish. This is not just an issue for us on our property and the surrounding areas, but also an issue for all Australians as CSG will undoubtedly compromise this food quality. By allowing CSG extraction the Government is compromising food security for all Australians.

As a sheep producing enterprise we have developed a breeding program over a generation of farming and the introduction of CSG will only serve to jeopardise this program and the opportunities we have created.

We would encourage further dialogue with the department to allow them to make a full and fair assessment of our position, and the risks of CSG in our area.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours Sincerely,

BA & SJ Schwager & Family.

srlup - Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

From: Emma Stilts <emma@unconundrum.net>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 2:08 PM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

To the Director – Strategic Regional Policy, NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure

In response to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013, located on the website - <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au>

I am concerned about the potential of Coal Seam Gas (C.S.G) exploration, and its negative effects on the state of NSW, specifically the local environment , air and water quality and the flow on effects to the areas inhabitants.

I would ask that a moratorium be placed on the practice until an independent and appropriately qualified party, can examine the effects of C.S.G exploration on a local area, its water and air quality and any effects on local inhabitants, the viability of the farming operations, and determine if some areas should be excluded.

I am not convinced of the safety of mining /exploration practice, as there have been reports, most obviously on ABC Four Corners 'Gas Leak!'(April1st, 2013.) showing fugitive emissions leading to exceptionally high levels of a variety of gases in the local area and waterways, with the alarming result being - water you can actually ignite. During the 4 Corners program, I watched a local man show gas bubbling out his local river. An event that to his knowledge had never happened before, and his sad statement, that when he reported the event, he was told it was a natural occurrence. If this is true, it is alarming.

I am also concerned that areas of prime agricultural value are being threatened, by an industry that is viable for only a short period, of 10-20 years, but whose practises, and their effects on the water table and natural environment may render the area unworkable.

Many people in my local area are concerned their our voice is not being heard, and that the future prosperity of our region and our health and well-being is being threatened by this mining practice.

I ask we stop the mining and exploration until we can be sure that it is safe. That assurance can only come from an independent party.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Thank you for you time,

Regards
 Emma Stilts

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Emma Stilts
 21 Holroyd St,
 Moore Creek

www.unconundrum.net
emma@unconundrum.net
 0407 435 585
 skype: emma.davo

Steve & Sally Sullivan
Wollombi General Store
2886 Wollombi Rd
WOLLOMBI NSW 2325
12th April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Dept. Of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

We are in opposition to the Coal Seam Gas exploration and extraction in the Wollombi Valley region including Laguna and Bucketty.

The Wollombi Valley is part of "Hunter Valley Wine Country" and "Hunter Valley Tourism" and should be protected under the "critical industry clusters" ruling, which is afforded exempt status under Section 3 of the amended SEPP. The wineries of the Wollombi Valley are obviously part of the "Hunter Valley Wine Country" and "Hunter Valley Tourism".

The significance of the Wollombi Valley, its history and heritage should be preserved and excluded from any gas exploration or mining. The heritage listed "Great North Rd" and convict built culverts covers these areas of the Wollombi Valley, Laguna and Bucketty.

Yours faithfully

Steve & Sally Sullivan

srlup - The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

From: <wellness8@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 2:25 PM
Subject: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

My submission is as follows.

Re. Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

These protections don't go far enough.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you.

srlup - csg submission

From: simon clarke <simon.arcadia@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 2:25 PM
Subject: csg submission

Re CSG in NSW

Dear Sir/Madam

I ask that the amendments to Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) re coal seam gas mining be broadended to include a minimum 2km buffer zone around or under any residence.

The right for councils to veto areas should be removed.

All food producing areas should be excluded as should national parks and reserves.

The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Simon Clarke

lot 15 fernleigh road

Brooklet

NSW 2479

Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001
Email srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

Gordon Fraser
25 Charles Street
SOUTH LISMORE NSW 2480
Ph 02 6622 4221
Mob 0414 644 893
Email gordonfraserquick@gmail.com

12 April 2013

RE: Proposed changes to the Mining SEPP are known as draft *State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.*

Whilst I commend the Government for their attempts to introduce an elevated level of responsibility to the development of the state's energy future I also implore the government to ensure the SEPP process is even more effective.

Moves to ensure the application of the Precautionary Principle into State decision making are to be applauded. However the proposed SEPP amendments as publically stated would leave a number of significant weaknesses which must be addressed before the amended SEPP is ratified and enacted.

The following matters are brought to the Government's attention for action prior to modification and enactment of the SEPP.

- 1) The Government must enact an **IMMEDIATE Statewide Moratorium** on any further approvals of exploration or any substantial development or operational commencement of any Coal Seam Gas, other form of Unconventional Gas or Coal Mining activity. This Moratorium should be applied to both APPROVED and YET TO BE APPROVED activities. It is anticipated the proposed variation in SEPP provisions may take some time to work through the administrative, political and bureaucratic process and a MORATORIUM is required NOW to prevent companies subverting the intention of the Government by rushing applications or works commencement prior to the SEPP Amendments being ratified.
- 2) The proposed amendments must see the **SEPP coverage expanded** to refer to all forms of Unconventional Gas sources (Coal Seam Gas, Tight Sands Gas, Shale Gas included) and also refer to Coal Mining, both Open Cut and Underground.
- 3) Critical Industry classification should be placed upon ANY location where ANY activity is undertaken which is associated with the production or processing of **ANY Food, Fibre, or Water ANYWHERE** in the State. Food, Fibre and Water are essential to human life, and to systems that support human life, and even small adverse impacts on these often highly vulnerable industries from inappropriate competing industries will be unsustainable and thus unacceptable.
- 4) **Water production areas should be defined** to include any areas where water is captured, harvested or actively managed for human consumption or for use on crops or livestock. Water production areas should include all surface water and associated catchments as well as all sub surface water to a depth of no less than 1,500 metres. Water production areas should include all areas where existing infrastructure or management practices are in place for active management of the water resource, and also include all areas where active management or improved management or infrastructure has been proposed or called for by any State or Federal agency but where such active management and infrastructure is not yet in place.
- 5) **The process for defining a Critical Industry Cluster** other than Food, Fibre and Water must be clarified and detailed in a publically available set of Procedures and Standards to enable transparent interpretation and application of the assessment and categorisation process.
- 6) An **Independent Panel for Defining and Reviewing Critical Industry Clusters** should be established and the panel should be adequately resourced with staff, administrative systems support and operational funding.

- 7) The Independent Panel for Defining and Reviewing Critical Industry Clusters should be empowered to put in place **Veto / or and Deferral of Approval** over any application anywhere in the State which may have a potential to conflict with a Critical Industry.
- 8) The Independent Panel for Defining and Reviewing Critical Industry Clusters should be constituted with representatives from the broadest possible cross section of the State community.
- 9) **Permanent Exclusion 2 kilometre ZONES must be established around, under and over ANY dwelling or infrastructure** which is capable, under relevant Local Planning Schemes or relevant State laws, of being used as a dwelling or infrastructure for human habitation whether as a temporary habitation or a permanent habitation. This should extend not just to clusters of dwellings such as towns and villages but also to farm dwellings, workers cottages, caravan parks, long-term campgrounds, National Park Camp Areas and the like.
- 10) There should be a Test Case in Federal Court or alternatively a High Level State Legal Opinion to test **does a Council have the Constitutional Powers to OVERRIDE or IGNORE a State Directive or State Environmental Planning Policy**. The legal consideration should reflect on an assumption that if Council has the wisdom and knowledge to decide to Opt Out of the Exclusion Zone they must also have the wisdom and knowledge to be able to manage the consequences of their decision. The findings and precedence established by these legal processes should be made publically available.
- 11) Council Exclusion Zone OPT OUT provisions, should they be found to be legally acceptable, should be accompanied by an **ENFORCEABLE LEGAL OBLIGATION** on the Council that they, the Council, accept that by OPTING OUT of the SEPP standoff or exclusion Zones they automatically and MANDATORALLY are locked in to accepting LIABILITY and RESPONSIBILITY for circumstances that arise from their decision. This provision could be known as for example the **"Council Concurrence with Opt Out Obligations clause"**.
- 12) The *"Council Concurrence with Opt Out Obligations clause"*, would specifically note that a Council decision to OPT OUT of the exclusion zone and subsequently approve CSG, other Unconventional Gas or Coal Mine development would see **Council accept full responsibility and liability** for funding, administering, supervising and enforcing all Humana and Animal Health Testing, Ground Water Monitoring, Air Emissions Monitoring and management and mitigation of any changes in these that may affect or impact persons, animals, infrastructure or assets and associated economic values therewith, wherever those are located within that Council Local Government's boundaries.
- 13) The enactment of the SEPP should be accompanied by concurrent or pre-emptory variances in the Local Government Act, Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and other relevant State guidelines and regulations to enable **Councils to charge Fees, Levies and gather Resources** from project proponents sufficient to enable Councils to fully fund and enact their obligations under the *"Council Concurrence with Opt Out Obligations clause"* (Proponents may otherwise remain as an unrateable entity and make no significant contribution to Council funds, and this is unacceptable.)
- 14) Where a Council Opts Out and is unable to raise adequate funds or gather sufficient Fees, Levies or Resources to enable Council to fully fund and enact all of their obligations under the *"Council Concurrence with Opt Out Obligations clause"* the **State will provide all necessary resources and funds** to that Council unencumbered IMMEDIATELY, AUTOMATICALLY and IN FULL to enable Council to enact all of their obligations.
- 15) Where a Council Opts Out and is unable to secure resources or funds itself, and is not supplied with those funds by the State unencumbered then the Council must make a Decision to NOT PERMIT A DEVELOPMENT TO PROCEED and MUST NOT ISSUE APPROVAL for any form of Unconventional Gas Mining or Coal Mining development to ensure **Council avoids breach of its fiduciary, civil, legal and ethical responsibilities**.

Submitted with respect, I look forward to your active and effective consideration of these submissions

Yours sincerely



Gordon Fraser

From: Bev Dillon <bdillon@live.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
CC: "office@premier.nsw.gov.au" <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, "office@hazzard...
Date: 12/04/2013 2:29 PM
Subject: Submission on the draft SEPP legislation

Beverley Dillon

882

Thunderbolts Way

Barrington. NSW 2422

12.04.13

The
Director Strategic Regional Policy

Department
of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Barrington and a member of the Barrington Gloucester Stroud Preservation Alliance (BGSPA). I support the BGSPA submission fully and I also welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

I support further amendments to the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013, in that there should be further studies to determine absolutely that there will be no negative impact on the water supply, air supply, or public health in the Gloucester area.

This submission is against all forms of gas extraction including those currently pending; and that a 2 kilometre buffer zone should apply around ALL residences. The Deputy Premier doesn't want a CSG well near his place because it would ruin property values and because of the potential for something to go wrong, so why should anyone be expected to have one placed near their homes.

Yours sincerely,

Beverley Dillon

srlup - submission re SEPP amendments

From: Jennifer O'Neill <oneill.jen@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 2:33 PM
Subject: submission re SEPP amendments

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of Gloucester and am particularly concerned about the damage already being done to our health, land, water and community by coal and gas mining. We know that in Gloucester there are unmapped CSG wells that through connectivity are a fire/explosion risk. Bore water wells and rain puddles near fracked CSG wells in Gloucester are bubbling. We know that the CSG company involved has only mapped 7% of the proposed development area. No one knows what will happen if the project goes ahead.

This industry has been banned altogether in other countries because it is not safe. We know that this industry is not safe for Gloucester and particularly is not safe near our homes or in our water catchments.

It is absolutely vital that exclusion buffer zones for both coal and CSG projects are a minimum of 2 km (I would prefer 10km) around ALL residential dwellings, regardless of whether that residential dwelling is in a city or in a rural area.

Local councils should have a right to veto coal and gas proposals and also to create their own zonings to exclude these proposals from scenic protection areas, agricultural or other food producing areas and from residential areas.

All food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas should be excluded from coal and gas developments.

Where I've said coal and gas I mean forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

The SEPP amendments should apply to all projects regardless of their stage of development or approval process.

This is an unsafe, destructive industry. It is dividing the community where I live. It provides short term employment for fly-ins who have no love for this community. At the same time it damages the thriving industries in Gloucester that currently provide one of the highest employment rates in Australia. I want to protect industries that will provide jobs for my children in thirty years time and for their children after that.

The government needs to understand that someone will have to pay for the damage done to our businesses, environment and health if these industries continue to encroach on our land and water which we rely on for our livelihoods and our future food security?

Yours Sincerely
Jennifer O'Neill
139 Testorellis Rd
Copeland
NSW 2422

TRICIA SHANTZ

PO Box 851
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02 6684 7390
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tsconsultants@iinet.net.au

April 12, 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy

Dept. of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed draft policy. I am a resident of Coorabell, in Northern NSW, where there has been an application to explore for Coal Seam Gas (CSG). While I welcome the Government's action on curtailing where CSG mining can take place I object to the blanket 2km exclusion zone. I live 15 kilometres from Mullumbimby, Byron Bay and Bangalow. Our area has agricultural and commercial activity: dairy farming, fruit tree orchards, beef cattle, and a tourist resort (Peppers) all of which are incompatible with mining.

While residents across NSW have been asking the NSW Government to protect our local communities from the negative impacts of CSG exploration and mining the proposed SEPP amendment does not cut to the crux of the CSG issue- which is that in terms of the precautionary principle- until it is proven to not be detrimental, then it should not take place. I appreciate that the NSW Government has at least looked at the matter and is taking steps in the right direction. However, you have not gone far enough. You have not taken into account the impacts on water supplies (that do not simply generate within 2km of a town), productive agricultural land, besides vineyards and horse studs and areas of high conservation value. I believe that this draft amendment is a knee-jerk reaction and not a considered, well-thought through look at the impacts of CSG exploration and mining in NSW. There are many built up areas that are not zoned residential, that should not be at threat of CSG mining.

I welcome and would support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009. "The next Liberal-National government... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts,

a guarantee.”^{(1Source: www.australiancoalalliance.com/Information/Woodbury%20Park%20Rally.mov)}. I liken what is happening in NSW with the CSG industry to the notion of the Japanese whaling, ‘We’ll research them while we kill them’. The CSG industry has been able to carry out mining while the impacts are not clearly known, given that the baseline data assessments and ongoing monitoring have not been undertaken generally.

Key points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment:

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places, such as the Northern Rivers of NSW.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council “opt out” clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW, as well as research undertaken by the Southern Cross University researchers into the high levels of methane found in the gasfields in Tahrā, Qld..
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on

productive agricultural land, which includes a wide range of agricultural activity such as occurs here in the Northern Rivers and is sold through our local Farmer's Markets – cheese, nuts, eggs, meat coffee, etc..

8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs, vineyards or any agricultural activity would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

Sincerely,

Tricia Shantz
BA GDURP MPIA

srlup - The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

From: cat <medicinegal@hotmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 2:43 PM
Subject: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

My submission is as follows.

Re. Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

These protections don't go far enough.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you.

srlup - Submission Re CSG mining exclusion zones

From: "margaret" <margaret@marray.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 2:47 PM
Subject: Submission Re CSG mining exclusion zones

Dear Sir/madam

I write with reference to the proposed amendments re the CSG mining exclusion zones in NSW. I am a longstanding member of Oakdale Public School P&C and wish to have our representations made known to the Director-General. The test drilling for coal seam gas started last year in a local street in Oakdale, less than a mile as the crow flies, down-wind from Oakdale Public School. The school has 160 pupils who are lucky enough to have a large playing field with the occasional kangaroo hopping by. The school was established in 1871 and has tolerated in its current site, decades of coal trucks thundering past on the way up to the Nattai Colliery.

For recent years the community has enjoyed quieter times as the mines closed and Sydney Catchment Authority enforced its exclusion zones and prohibited public entry to vast areas west of the township of Oakdale. Schedule 1 & 2 lands exist to prevent contamination to the water supply of the Burragorang/Warragamba Catchment and yet bizarrely, are prime CSG drilling/mining sites? My family and I face a \$11,000 fine for entering land with our dog (on a lead), and yet Apex and other gas companies are greenlighted by NSW Government. Please explain.

To formulate amendments banning CSG activities 2km from residential areas and 'critical industry clusters' is one thing; but to deliberately overlook/ignore pristine catchment areas is appallingly stupid. Let's hope common sense prevails and the NSW government proposed amendments are continued to ban such activities in all water catchment areas – particularly that which supplies 4.5 million Sydney siders/voters.

Yours faithfully

Ms Margaret. Jackson
(Oakdale Public School P&C member 2006-2013)

Chris Reynolds
Grantham Road
Forbesdale NSW 2422

11 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposed Amendment to the draft SEPP in relation to CSG exclusion zones

I am a resident of Forbesdale, 7 kms south of Gloucester, and my property will overlook Stage 1 of the proposed AGL CSG development, in fact wells are proposed less than 1km from the 30 odd homes in Forbesdale. I am a member of a number of community groups including the Barrington Gloucester Stroud Preservation Alliance (BGSPA) and I strongly support the submissions that groups such as the BGSPA, Lock The Gate Alliance and the Nature Conservation Council will be submitting.

The proposed amendment includes a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas and critical industry clusters. While this is a significant step in the right direction, it fails to fairly treat country residents who live in rural areas or small villages. It also fails to take into account the need for further environmental protections that safeguard our drinking water, our health and our conservation and agricultural lands.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee"¹.

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

I would ask the following:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer zone around all dwellings, wherever they may be. My locality of Forbesdale has over 30 homes and these should be treated the same as bigger towns.
2. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects which have been approved but have not Gloucester AGL project should not be allowed to proceed.

¹ Source: www.australiancoalalliance.com/Information/Woodbury%20Park%20Rally.mov.

3. The proposed amendment does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries. The threat to Forbesdale by open cut coal mining is substantial.
4. The right to veto for local Councils should be removed unless there is an equivalent power for Councils to list new prohibited areas.
5. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
6. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
7. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
8. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
9. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)
Chris Reynolds

11th April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Planning
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001
Email: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extraction Industries) (Coal Seam Exclusion Zones) 2013

I **strongly object** to the proposed amendment to the State Environmental Planning (relating to Coal Seam Gas Mining) in its current form. My reasons are stated below.

Introduction

The draft amendment is inadequate and appears to be a politically motivated piece of legal jargon designed to deceive the people of New South Wales before a federal election, which will be won or lost in Western Sydney. There is lack of consistency between the media release to the public on Thursday 21st March 2013 and the proposed amendment. The proposed amendment is ambiguous and lacks sufficient detail.

The **Media Release** surreptitiously excluded the “**Opt Out**” clause for local councils. In its current form the proposed amendment does little to protect vulnerable, targeted communities in South Western Sydney or land owners in the Hunter Valley. The **LOOPHOLE** or “**OPT OUT**” clause allows powerful and greedy industries such as AGL to manipulate local councils and communities, and makes a mockery of the so called tougher regulations on Coal Seam Gas Mining. If the State Liberal Government is to honour the commitment made in the media release the “Opt Out” clause **MUST** be removed.

Media Release 21st March 2013

The Media Release clearly states that:

*“The amendment seeks to **prohibit** CSG exploration and production activity within two kilometres of residential zones and proposed future residential areas. Drilling underneath these zones will be prohibited” and*

*“CSG activities will also be **excluded** from land identified as a Critical Industry Cluster – which includes the Upper Hunter Valley horse breeding and wine making industries.*

The above statements were made by the Planning and Infrastructure Minister Brad Hazzard. Nowhere in the Media Release does it state that local councils will be permitted to “opt out” and ignore the so called tough new rules.

Is the community to believe Brad Hazzard changed his mind on formulating the proposed amendment or that he is simply telling blatant lies?

The people of New South Wales are also assured that.

"Once finalised, the policy will ensure CSG exploration and production activities cannot occur in country, suburbs, villages and critical industry across NSW."

How can the above statement be true if local councils are permitted to "opt out"? The Planning Minister, Brad Hazzard, is far from honourable; he is treating concerned community members in cynical and contemptuous manner, and insulting their intelligence. In particular those people living in South Western Sydney and the Hunter Valley.

The Media Release also refers to the **NSW Government Strategic Regional Land Use Policy** which suggests that it provides the toughest set of CSG regulations in Australia. It is interesting to note that New South Wales is the only state where CSG mining is permitted under homes with total disregard for the people who own them, or that AGL has been permitted to continually disregard mandatory safety regulations in the Camden Gas Project, and will probably continue to do so if permitted. Premier Barry O'Farrell has been remiss in allowing this to occur.

The State Liberal Government has **NOT** listened to the community. We do **NOT** want CSG mining anywhere near our homes nor do we want it on prime agricultural land. There needs to be a moratorium on all CSG activities in NSW until a **long term, truly independent** study has been carried out to determine the impacts of CSG mining on the environment and the health of the community.

"The State's Chief Scientist and Engineer, Professor Mary O'Kane will conduct an independent review of CSG activities in NSW, including any potential impact on water catchments."

How independent can this review be when it is controlled by the State Government and conducted by a State Government employee? Other reputable scientists need to be involved, that is, those who are concerned about the environment and do not have a vested interest in CSG mining. The Chief Scientist can hardly adequately research this industry by July; a ridiculous deadline the state government has set!

Who else other than the Environment Protection Authority will be responsible for regulating the environmental and health impacts in New South Wales? To date the EPA has proven to be incompetent in dealing with AGL's Camden Gas Project!!

"These changes provide certainty for the community while ensuring that the industry can continue to meet the State's energy needs," Mr Hazzard said.

Unfortunately the proposed changes will not provide certainty for the community due to the devious inclusion of the "opt out" clause for local councils.

Is the government trying to placate the CSG mining industry by assuring them that they will be permitted to continue mining to meet the State's energy needs? Does this really mean that CSG industries will be able to continue huge profits at the expense of the community to line the pockets of greedy industry executives and the State Liberal Government?

Exclusion Zone of Two Kilometres for Residential Areas

Is the concept of an exclusion zone based on **sound research** and **scientific evidence**, or is it a “knee jerk” reaction to appease an anxious and angry community?

- Why a two (2) kilometre exclusion zone? Where did this arbitrary figure originate?
- Independent research to gain reliable data should be sought before major decisions like this are made.

It is questionable as to whether the two kilometer exclusion zone is based on any science and is far enough away from urban areas to protect the community. Air and water impacts don't stop at a wall two kilometres from a residential area. Campbelltown already has air pollution and associated health problems that could be associated with the coal seam gas mining that already exists out here on the urban fringe.

- Coal Seam Gas mining should not be carried out anywhere near residential areas - under any circumstances. Nor should it be carried out on prime agricultural land, farming land or near water catchment areas. In these areas it should be totally and unequivocally banned.

There are too many potential risks and insignificant data on its safety and impact on the environment. The O'Farrell Government has finally accepted community and expert evidence from the 2011 NSW Upper House Inquiry that CSG mining carries environmental and health risks that have not been sufficiently researched. On that basis allowing CSG mining near or under homes or in the other areas mentioned above is totally irresponsible.

Large, wealthy, powerful and greedy industries should **NOT** be permitted to amass huge profits at the expense of the community. Nor should they be able to self monitor, self assess, damage the environment, break the law, dictate the rules and then tell the community they (AGL) are doing us a favour by providing cheaper gas! They must comply with laws and regulations as expected of the general community.

Opt Out Clause for Local Councils

This loophole which would give local councils the final say on coal seam gas (CSG) projects had made a mockery of the state government's so called tougher new regulations on this controversial and dodgy industry. This clause gives local councils the power to exempt certain land areas from the ban, thereby denying “certainty to any person in the community”.

“The very existence of this uncertainty will result in property devaluation without CSG mining even taking place,” said Jacqui Kirkby, Scenic Hills Association spokeswoman. “It means that people will constantly have to monitor their council to see if it has made the decision to allow mining in their area”.

In my opinion the “Opt Out” for local councils is devious and contemptuous strategy from a dishonest government, designed to appease the CSG industry, namely AGL. It is obvious that the state Liberal government is “having a bet each way”. The government doesn't have the courage to say no to industry it would rather put the community at risk and rake in huge dollars. The existence of this clause amounts to the State Liberal Government doing a “back flip” and has angered affected residents.

I believe that the state Liberal government is deliberately giving industries such as AGL the opportunity to exploit loopholes and put pressure on local councils to feed their greed. The loophole will open the

door for big business allowing them to harass, threaten and intimidate local councils and the community in order to achieve their outcomes. It will also cause increased stress and anxiety in the community, particularly in vulnerable areas such as South Western Sydney and the Hunter Valley. Affluent areas such as the northern and eastern will probably not have to be concerned as wealthy business executives and politicians will not want to foul their own nest.

Regulations must protect **ALL** citizens not just the wealthy and there must be **NO loopholes**. Any loophole would negate increased protection of the community!!

Clause 9A – subclauses (2) and (3), pertaining to the “opt out” for local councils, need to be removed from the draft amendment document. New South Wales residents need to be provided with an iron clad guarantee that their homes will **NOT** be subjected to CSG mining activity.

The draft amendment consists of Claytons regulations where communities are constantly at the mercy of local councils and industry. The protection of communities cannot be assured, and as already mentioned will lead to stress, anxiety, lack of certainty and ill health. The amendment, with its loophole, is a joke and an insult to our intelligence.

The “opt out” clause puts the onus on local councils for any problems incurred with project approvals. Is this so the state Liberal government can “opt out” of any liability? A political stunt!!

Conventional gas mining (such as in Bass Strait) has fewer environmental problems than CSG. BHP has indicated that there is enough conventional gas available to keep the entire east coast supplied almost indefinitely. So why do we need to urgently exploit the very dodgy CSG when we have vast alternatives elsewhere? Is AGL, an extremely wealthy and greedy corporate, setting the agenda for the NSW Liberal government? CSG projects have no benefits for residents in South Western Sydney. It is interesting to note that CSG has been banned in France.

Other Issues – Related to Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion

A genuine policy that protects vulnerable communities from powerful, greedy and wealthy industries needs to be embedded in law before the Federal election, and communities need to be given an “iron clad” guarantee that it will not be reversed post election.

AGL’s exploration licence covering the Sydney covering the Sydney Metropolitan Area and unused Petroleum Lease (N05) should both be cancelled. We also need to see the state government take action on AGL’s breach of conditions of its petroleum Lease (N04) and a full investigation into the impacts of prior stages of the Camden Gas Project.

It is obvious that AGL withdrew its Project Application - Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Northern Expansion not only because it would not stand up to scrutiny but also so it has time to plan and use its vast financial resource to wear down local councils and the community. AGL also wanted to avoid its project becoming an unpopular election issue leading up to the federal election and damaging the Liberal brand in crucial Western Sydney suburbs. AGL should NOT be allowed to manipulate the public!!

Coal seam gas mining has already caused considerable anxiety and stress leading to depression and ill health of the people affected by CSG activities. This will continue to occur unless this dodgy industry is banned in vulnerable areas. That is completely banned with **NO** loopholes.

Local councils should have the right to stop projects that are harmful to the community but should not be allowed to opt out or bypass regulations that are designed to protect the general public.

Menangle residents claim that AGL representatives are ruthless and used intimidation, threats and gratuities to local schools to achieve their objectives in the early stages of the Camden Gas Project. How do we know this won't happen again?

There is considerable evidence to support the damaging effects of CSG mining on our environment. There is still little or no independent data for analysis to support any safety procedures. Such data cannot be gained in a couple of months. Independent long term research **must** be carried out, that has not been done. So on that basis alone coal seam gas mining should be stopped!

CSG mining is unsightly and unsafe in urban areas with a potential escalation in mining accidents associated with more intense urban activity, the presence of children, and potential for vandalism. Gas leaks and potential explosions where fires burn continuously have not been ruled out. The impact on land and house values as a consequence of CSG mining could be devastating for home owners as has been seen in Queensland and the Hunter Valley. It seems it is very difficult if not impossible to sell land that has been mined for CSG due to a trail of devastation and destruction left by mining companies. For many people the home is their largest asset and is often leveraged to support small businesses. Any devaluation by bank assessors may destroy livelihoods and life savings.

AGL will continue to produce about 5% of NSW's gas from the Camden Gas Project according to evidence it gave under oath at the NSW Upper House Inquiry. The risks and potential costs to the community do not justify this, particularly since 150,000+ people already live and work in the immediate affected area, and this is Sydney's south west growth corridor. It is socially, environmentally and economically unjustified, and has no social licence to operate here. Coal seam gas mining is simply not worth the risk. There are potential dangers to the environment and wildlife, to property and homes and to the safety and health of residents from such things methane leakage, water contamination, land subsidence, poisoning of underground water resources and aquifers from the toxic chemicals. . It must be obvious to AGL and the NSW Liberal government that Macarthur residents are strongly opposed to mining under their homes due to the potential risks already discussed.

Many things can go wrong with CSG mining: This has implications for New South Wales:

In Tara in Southern Queensland academic research has found methane levels 3.5 times higher in the coal seam gas fields than expected and higher than elsewhere in the world including in the largest gas fields in Siberia, according to the researchers from Southern A further concern is that since gas is only a transitional fuel between coal and renewable energy sources, the current6) Read about what can go wrong. There are warning bells ringing in Queensland where coal seam gas mining is Cross University.

This follows accidents near Dalby in Queensland, where recently a methane fire down a hole in a coal seam gas field was burning out of control...and last year a coal seam gas well blew out while it was being brought into production, spewing methane and waste water 90 metres into the air for 24 hours until it was brought under control. The landowner claimed it was the fourth incident on his property in almost as many years.

Conclusion (Summary)

- Mining must to be based on sound research, science principles and safe practices. There needs to be a **moratorium** on coal seam gas mining until there is sufficient independent evidence to ensure that CSG mining is safe. This will take more than a couple of months, since little data exists.
- The two (2) kilometre exclusion zone needs to be increased to ensure the safety of people and the environment and to avoid the impacts of heavy industry due to access roads, large transport vehicles and pollution.
- The “**Opt Out**” clause for local councils must to be eliminated from the amendment document. The state Liberal government needs to honour the promises it made at the last election and in the Media Release date 21st March 2013.
- **NO** CSG mining activities should be carried out on, under or near residential areas, prime agricultural or farming land, or near water catchment areas - **under any circumstances**.
- **The** state Liberal government is remiss in allowing CSG mining to occur in residential areas. New South Wales is the only Australian state where this occurs. Also in permitting AGL to ignore mandatory regulations.
- The Macarthur area has never accepted coal seam gas mining and nothing has changed. AGL should pack up and go but leave compensation for the damage it has already caused and for future problems that may arise from CSG mining.

The state Liberal government has disappointed and severely let down the people of NSW, in particular those residents living in South Western Sydney. We seem to have become a dumping ground for the rich and I am appalled at the state government's apathy, dishonesty, incompetence and trivialization of our genuine concerns about CSG mining. AGL **must** get out of our community and leave our homes alone!!!

I supported the State Liberal Government at the last state election. However, the O'Farrell government has been manipulative and has failed to honour its election promises. I now consider this government to be tainted and I am sure the views of community members will be reflected in the next state election!

Yours sincerely,

Resident of Woodbine, Post Code 2560

Please note: *I do not wish to have my name or other private details made public on the Department's Website or to AGL. I have included only my suburb and post code on my submission.*

James & Maxine Blackburn

'Tunbridge Farm'

728-730 Tunbridge Rd

Merriwa 2329

NSW

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The Director Strategic Regional Policy

9-4-13

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney 2001

Comments on the State Environment Planning Policy [SEPP]

1. The O'Farrell Governments proposed 2 kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas, horse studs and vineyards is welcomed, however it does not cover impacts of coal seam gas development in NSW on water catchment areas, aquifers, prime agricultural land, state conservation areas and high conservation value land. These impacts need to be researched.
2. The coal seam gas industry has not been proven to be a safe and reliable industry. Coal seam gas mining has been shown to compromise the safety of our drinking water. Huge volumes extracted from the coal seam can lead to a major depletion of connected aquifers. This depletion affects drinking water, agriculture, horticulture, and the ability to produce clean green food for our communities.

To protect our critical water resources the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority [SCA] water catchment areas, SCA special areas and other drinking water catchments across NSW.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore there is no body of evidence to prove that this industry is safe.

3. In American communities where coal seam fracking has occurred communities have had their water supplies contaminated, and water has had to be trucked in to supply households. Visit 'Lock the Gate', read comments on Gasland. The chemicals used in the fracking process have proven to be carcinogenic and injurious to health. Google 'Lock the Gate', go to Fact Sheets, Click on Fracking chemicals their use and hazards. This gives a list of chemicals used. Moreover Carcinogenic chemicals have been detected in 5 water bores around the Queensland town of Dalby. [Get Up CSG]

4. There is growing concern and mounting evidence about damage done to aquifers which cannot be repaired. Mr Dunn, a spokesperson for Australian Petroleum producers and Explorations Association, told a meeting in Sydney that damage to aquifers was inevitable and unavoidable. In this driest of continents aquifers are our lifeblood. Anything that threatens to damage them must be banned. There should be Federal laws that make it illegal to damage aquifers as they are the life source for our Australian communities. **The integrity and preservation of our aquifers goes beyond the realm of individual states, it is a matter of national importance.** The Commonwealth of Australia needs to become actively involved here.

This raises questions of national security involving the safety of our water supply, and our capacity to feed ourselves from our prime agricultural land. The Great Artesian Basin is a national resource and part of a wider ecological system. It is a resource of National importance and lies under 22% of Australia. It is the only reliable source of water in arid and semi-arid areas.

5. There are no effective regulations in place regarding this industry which has the capacity to destroy our resources of National importance. The activities of this industry must be ceased until the nations resources can be properly safeguarded. To contemplate fracking around Warragamba Dam, the water supply for the city of Sydney, is environmental vandalism beyond description. That this has been done by stealth, and a national resource has been traded without the awareness of the communities involved, all for the bottom dollar line reeks of self serving self interest without regard to the constituencies they were meant to be representing.
6. Fracking involves potentially toxic chemicals and the contamination of aquifers. Moreover, there are disposal issues regarding big volumes of saline water pumped back into the surface. Research from The United States Environmental Protection Agency has shown methane contamination as a result of gas production and fracking practices. In American communities where coal seam fracking has occurred water supplies have been contaminated, and drinking water has had to be trucked into supply households. The chemicals used in the fracking process have proven to be carcinogenic and injurious to health.

7. Methane is known to be many times more potent than carbon dioxide as a green house gas. Wherever fracking has been practised methane has been found to escape into the atmosphere. In addition the leaking of methane gas from wells is highly explosive and dangerous. There are many documented instances of methane leaking out of domestic taps. Over 50% of wells tested in Queensland leak methane. CSM wells do sometimes catch fire and explode. CSM wells and pipelines are fire hazards.

8. A Queensland court has shut down an experimental underground coal gasification project by Cougar Energy on the Darling Downs after dangerous chemicals were found in underground water supplies. Carcinogenic chemicals were found in bore water. Carcinogenic chemicals have been detected in 5 water bores around the Queensland town of Dalby.
9. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers Region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid inconsistency that leaves part of the state at risk

10. We submit that the activities of the coal seam gas industry must be ceased until the nations resources can be properly safeguarded. The integrity and preservation of our aquifers goes beyond the realm of individual states. It is a matter of national importance. The Commonwealth of Australia needs by legislation to become actively involved here. This raises questions of national security involving the safety of our water supply, and our capacity to feed ourselves from our prime agricultural land. The Great Artesian basin is a national resource and part of a wider ecological system. It is a resource of National importance and lies under 22% of Australia. It is the only reliable source of water in semi-arid areas.
11. The coal seam gas mining proposed for the Liverpool Plains, Hunter Valley, St Peters, Warragamba Dam catchment, Southern Highlands and other parts of the State will cause considerable environmental damage, pollution of aquifers and loss of prime agricultural land. The damage to aquifers, agricultural land, and the contamination and depletion of the Great Artesian Basin will be an ecological disaster, which will affect generations to come. The extraction of coal seam gas is an environmental calamity. To contemplate fracking around Warragamba Dam the water supply for the city of Sydney, is environmental vandalism beyond description.
12. The development of the coal seam gas industry in Australia has been done by stealth, and a national resource has been traded without the awareness of the communities involved, all for self serving interest without regard to the constituencies they were meant to be representing. The role of Government is to protect communities not the mining and gas industry's balance sheet.
13. The State Government should declare a moratorium on fracking to coal seam gas extraction indefinitely until it can be proven that this industry is safe and does not destroy our national resources. There needs to be legislation enacted making damage to aquifers an offence to anyone causing or facilitating such damage. That includes politicians.
14. At present there are no effective regulations in place regarding this industry, which has the capacity to destroy the non-renewable resources of Australia. Given the risks to water resources and public from CSG, the Government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
15. The preservation of our aquifers is a matter of national importance as is the issue of food production and security. We call on the States & the Commonwealth of Australia to enact legislation that protects our aquifers, health and our prime agricultural land.

Australia, it's worth fighting for.

The States & the Commonwealth of Australia must enact legislation that protects aquifers and our prime agricultural land. It should be an offence to damage aquifers.

Maxine Blackburn. B. Hort. Mngt. B.Psych. M.Psych

Chair Ethics & Values Pillar

Ecological Agriculture Australia Association

DR James Blackburn

srlup - Objection to Mining SEPP

From: Christopher Robertson <christopher.robertson03@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 3:02 PM
Subject: Objection to Mining SEPP

If government thinks residential land is worth protecting why are they not giving the same protection to people living in rural communities. To me that is discrimination in favour of city dwellers, are we not people too. Why would we not have a case for discrimination against government.

Ban CSG within five kilometres of any residence.

Chris Robertson

242 Kirkton Road Lower Belford NSW

srlup - Submission - Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zone 2013

From: "Hunter" <gunnadilly@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>, <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzar...>
Date: 12/04/2013 3:13 PM
Subject: Submission - Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zone 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
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 SYDNEY NSW 2001

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Amendments are being made to the Mining SEPP. The proposed amendments would prohibit coal seam gas development:

- on or under land in and within 2km of a residential zone or future identified residential growth areas; and
- on or under land which is in a Critical Industry Cluster (CIC). Currently, two CICs have been identified - the Upper Hunter equine and viticulture CICs.

Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zone 2013

We are farmers on the Liverpool Plains and state vehemently our objection to this narrow amendment.

The NSW Government has effectively stated that those citizens of this state outside a two kilometre exclusion zone for Coal Seam Gas extraction are 'second class' citizens. Second class for their health, water, livelihoods and the environment. Once again agriculture is being ignored. The trendy industries of thoroughbred racing and wine production for the city voters have been spared. Livestock and farming enterprises are vital to the food security of this nation and there is no reason why coal seam gas should be allowed to interfere with the productive land of this country.

We are fortunate to have some of the best sandstone groundwater aquifers in the world and this government is going to put this precious natural resource at risk. This resource is vital to the ongoing productivity and future of food production in New South Wales.

There is also the protection of the Namoi catchment, that flows to the Murray Darling .

Until the science proves that Coal Seam Gas will have no effect on the above, a moratorium should be issued on all exploration and production wells. Don't let this government be responsible for the next "asbestos" !

Quote Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner: 'I would not like a gas well in my back yard'.
 NEITHER SHOULD WE .

Yours faithfully,

Charles & Amanda Murray
 "Apple Tree"
 SPRING RIDGE NSW 2343
 02-67473935

srlup - CSG in NSW

From: dom chapla <alohasailor@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 3:20 PM
Subject: CSG in NSW

Hello

Regarding planning for CSG in NSW, as you are no doubt aware there is some concern in communities that could be affected by this. We have a few recommendations, if you're still taking them:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thanks for your time, and I'd love to hear back on how you plan to avoid potential environmental damage in these areas.

Dominique Chapla

srlup - Draft Amendment to the SEPP

From: Liz Bulley <embulley@yahoo.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 3:22 PM
Subject: Draft Amendment to the SEPP

Dear planning department, I am writing to you to request the following amendments for the current draft SEPP exhibition of the-

Title:	Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The following points require your consideration please-

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards

Elizabeth Bulley

sr lup - To the director

From: scott vidler <lostmydrumkey@yahoo.com.au>
To: "plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au" <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 12:14 PM
Subject: To the director

11th April 2013

Scott Vidler
 11/6-8 Second Ave
 Macquarie Fields
 NSW 2564

Director, Strategic Assessment
 Department of Planning & Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 SYDNEY NSW 2001

To the director,

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I am writing this submission as a concerned and informed citizen of this country, and it is my belief, based on all of what I have learned about Coal Seam Gas over the recent years, that the serious risks posed by Coal Seam Gas, must be acknowledged by our government.

I learnt about the issues and impacts relating to Coal Seam Gas not only after watching Josh Fox's Gasland documentary, but after doing much extensive research of my own. Since the inception of my initial research, I have made my best efforts to follow this issue worldwide, as I believe that there is no common sense to be made from watching the effects an industry can have on places and communities, and not be taking them into account when it comes to assessing these issues on our own home land.

When taking into account the information readily available through independent media and online reports from relevant agencies and members of the scientific community, it is clearly obvious that this industry poses too many risks for it to be not only commercially viable for future interests, for sustainability, for the health of this country, and it's natural resources and people.

While doing my own research, I have accumulated a list of substantial risks that I believe support the concerns of myself and many members of the community. As I have kept my researching quite broad, accessing content from around the world, my concerns may amount to a different list than what others may have already put forward.

*Earthquakes ranging from 1.5 to 5.6.

Such earthquakes have increased in parts of England and the US after extensive numbers of gas wells have been introduced into these areas. While some of these may not be felt at the surface, smaller earthquakes underground may disrupt natural flow of underground water, which in turn affects the natural rise and fall of the water table, may assist with bringing higher salt levels to the ground surface, which can have an adverse effect on food crop production, as well as contribute to deforestation of natural and commercially intended timber forests. As it is my understanding that the behavior of underground elements cannot be fully established, until further assessment is done, you cannot prove that Coal Seam Gas extraction will not be contributing to further problems in the

future.

***Contamination of groundwater.**

If aquifers are contaminated due to the process of hydraulic fracturing, many communities and industries will suffer, including but not limited to those reliant on underground water which is used for irrigation for both livestock and food production, and will also affect communities which rely on groundwater for industrial purposes and drinking supplies. Furthermore, groundwater which is contaminated through the addition of chemicals used in the fracturing process also have the ability to re surface through natural springs where it can also contaminate surface water, which further poses a threat to industry and agriculture, but also many places that common Australian people use for leisure activities. Xylene, one chemical used in the fracking process was an ingredient taken out of school and office stationary (eg permanent markers) due to its toxicity, yet there is no proof that such chemicals won't be released into aquifers as part of the fracking process. I also make the note that natural radioactive toxins existing in the ground may also come to the surface as a result of the hydraulic fracturing process.

Fugitive emissions resulting in health impacts.

In far too many instances where gas drilling has taken place, many incidents of fugitive emissions occurring have become commonplace. As this has the ability to affect the health of local residents, I believe this to be an issue which is a major concern for people living in these areas. There is already much accumulated evidence from towns and communities in parts of the US where hydraulic fracturing has occurred where people and animals have become sick, some have died due to methane and other toxins escaping from the ground after drilling in the area has commenced.

***Industrialization of rural areas, resulting in property devaluation.**

Due to the nature of people learning the reality of this industry, areas where hydraulic fracturing has, or is taking place, have seen a significant loss in property value due to proposed contamination, noise from compressor stations and increase in traffic, loss of natural scenery through access roads and gas pipelines. As parts of Queensland are already experiencing these effects, this must be taken into your consideration. As my mother owns property in Doubtful Creek, northern New South Wales, site of a recent exploration well by Metgasco, what was intended to be an investment property for my future may be now worth considerably less than when it was evaluated five years ago.

***Loss of prime food production land, resulting in increased food exports and loss of economic gain.**

The issue of food security is fairly complex, but the ideals of protecting it are quite simple. When prime land becomes contaminated through surface and aquifer pollution, our ability to feed our own nation becomes a serious issue of concern. As we import almost 80 percent of our nations food supply from other countries, the ideals of becoming a more self sufficient country become a further away reality. As this nations people will need food regardless of where it comes from, further outsourcing will impact our own economy, as we send more of our own money overseas through food imports. As it is understood that our states unconventional gas resources also share the same space with the Great Artisan Basin, and much of this states food production land, it is evident that contamination of ground, surface water and food production land has such a high risk of contamination, and the dangers of Coal Seam Gas mining in this country would have a disastrous effect.

I had already decided not to include example references of my concerns, as I'm quite certain that many other submissions you have been receiving of late would be covering many of these issues. I'm sure you have plenty to read as it is. The community is already fully aware of the lies and cover ups by the industry that attempt to persuade the population into following the false belief that this industry is properly regulated. We know it's not. If this were the case, incidents of contamination from around the world would have been taken into account, and the issues faced by many Queensland residents would simply not exist.

What I would like to make clear to you however, is that we, as citizens of this nation know the

dangers and the results that this industry will have once it has expanded across the state and over the Great Artisan Basin. While some faculties within the media are making their best efforts to persuade the general public that the mining methods of Coal Seam Gas are safe and clean, these faculties, and this government, have not yet woken up to the fact that the general public already know the impacts that this industry will have. I, like many have spent many hours gathering my own research, networked with community groups and kept up to date with current agendas. We know what the risks are. Members within the government are placed in power to act in the best interests of the people, but as many of us see it, the government is failing in its job to consider the interests and the safety of the people as first and foremost. Once the industry have done their dirty work and moved on, it will then be up to the government to fix and compensate for a problem that was created by the complacency created in not forcing this industry to be externally regulated.

I strongly believe that once the land, air and water have been contaminated beyond repair, we will be no different than countries that are given a third world status, as a country that cannot support it's own people will never keep its own economy afloat. This is what this industry proposes.

As a member of the combined community, I demand that you take our relevant concerns into account. You must also understand that failing to provide us with this basic security suggests that our current government is incapable of doing it's job properly, and will give the people no other choice than to continue with our own media releases, rallies, demonstrations, protests and blockades. It will also be a major influence in upcoming elections. I know that I am one of many that would rather be focusing on my own personal pursuits, rather than working with the community for a result that our current government is failing us in.

Yours Sincerely,
Scott Vidler.

srlup - Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zone 2013

From: "JR & SB Lyle" <jslyle@activ8.net.au>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 7:47 AM
Subject: Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zone 2013

Attention: Director
Strategic Assessments
Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zone 2013

We are farmers on the Liverpool Plains and state vehemently our objection to this narrow amendment.

The NSW Government has effectively stated that those citizens of this state outside a two kilometre exclusion zone for Coal Seam Gas extraction are 'second class' citizens. Second class for their health, water, livelihoods and the environment. Once again agriculture is being ignored. Livestock and farming enterprises are vital to the food security of this nation and there is no reason why coal seam gas should be allowed to interfere with the productive land of this country.

Until the science proves that Coal Seam Gas will have no effect on the above, the brakes should be put firmly on.

Quote Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner: 'I would not like a gas well in my back yard'.

NEITHER SHOULD WE .

John and Susan Lyle
Ranken Park
Curlewis 2381

From: Shea Karg <shea.karg@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 3:34 PM
Subject: Mining in rural areas

I live in a rural area called Tyringham, 24km outside of Dorrigo and I wish to make the following points:

The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 10km buffer around all residential dwellings

The right to veto for councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas

The provisions should be expanded to coal mining as well as gold and antimony mining and all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas

The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not satisfied their conditions of approval and have not yet commenced operation.

srlup - Proposed Amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones

From: Indra S <indradha@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 3:43 PM
Subject: Proposed Amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones

To the Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure

12th April 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing with regard to the Draft Amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

The proposed changes in the amendment provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters.

However, they do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas. The Northern Rivers Region of NSW, for example, produces around 25% of the state's milk and over 30% of the state's soybean yield. Such industries are vital to the food security of NSW. I would suggest that they are more vital to our survival than the thoroughbred industry. Surely, these areas should be protected as well.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow councils to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining.

I recommend that the following changes made to the Draft Amendment.

Firstly, the SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.

Secondly, the right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.

Thirdly the provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Fourthly, the SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

Finally, the SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

I sincerely hope that the Department can consider my recommendations, for the future food security of New South Wales and Australia.

Yours Truly

Indra Stephenson
 6 North Street
 Lismore
 NSW 2480

srlup - NO CSG drilling in Australia

From: Cecilia Nunez <nunceceilia@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/04/2013 3:44 PM
Subject: NO CSG drilling in Australia

The SEPP amendments should be broadened to exclude the whole of Australia from CSG drillings, it's not safe and should not be done. Explore and develop renewable energies instead, sun is what we have the most; how come we are not using it?

Kind regards

Cecilia Nunez

Deborah Brooks & Alan Keown
41 Skye Road, Barrington NSW 2422
Tel (02) 6558 4324
Email: debandal@southernphone.com.au

Premier Barry O'Farrell: office@premier.nsw.gov.au
Planning Minister Brad Hazzard: office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au
Department of Planning: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Premier, Minister and Departmental Officers,

Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

We are residents in Gloucester NSW and we would like to congratulate you on introducing CSG exclusion zones in residential areas, viticulture and thoroughbred areas.

This is a step in the right direction to protect urban areas that are zoned as residential and critical rural industries. But, the change does not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near our community of Gloucester.

Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to "opt out" of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. While empowering local councils to have a say on development is inherently a good idea, this clause would allow gas companies to circumvent the safeguards by pressuring councils to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment.

Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.

Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.

Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.

We fully support the submission made on this subject by The Barrington Gloucester Stroud Preservation Alliance.

We heard the Deputy Premier on a recent 7.30 TV program saying that he wouldn't want a CSG well near his place because (1) it will reduce his property value and (2) there is always the potential for something to go wrong. The Deputy Premier doesn't want it near his home; neither do the people of the Gloucester Valley.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Brooks & Alan Keown

srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au.

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir,

As long time landowners in the Wollombi valley, my wife and I wish to record our appreciation of the initiative being take by the New South Wales government to introduce legislation to restrict areas where coal seam gas development and mining may occur. However, we do not consider the proposed legislation goes far enough.

We therefore wish to register our concerns as follows:

1. Whilst the amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) as proposed in Schedule 3 (14th April) is commendable it does not address all of our concerns as landholders and, for that matter, those applying to other regions of New South Wales. The restriction zones as currently proposed effectively serve to discriminate against ourselves and many other regions that are equally deserving of protection, e.g. recognised heritage, scenic and tourist regions.
2. The SEPP amendments should apply to all gas extraction processes and coal mining operations, including all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
3. We oppose coal seam gas mining in the Wollombi Valley region including Laguna and Bucketty as cited in the NSW Government publication "*The Lower Hunter over the next 20 years: A Discussion Paper*" Energy Resources (page 33).
4. The village of Wollombi (RU5 Zone under Cessnock LEP 2011) in the Lower Hunter with its natural and cultural heritage should be protected from inappropriate mining and gas development. The Village is a valuable cultural and heritage asset in the Wollombi Valley and should be afforded proper protection.
5. The neighbouring village of Laguna (although not currently classified with a RU5 Zoning) exhibits all the aspects that a reasonable person would consider comprises a 'village'. This includes a heritage classified public school with a current enrolment of approximately 50 students, a church, volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, community hall, general store and wine bar, a playing field and cricket oval. It also has a minimum of 15 residences within walking distance of this infrastructure. As a result of the village character of Laguna, it should also be included in Schedule 3 'Exclusion Zone' for coal seam gas mining.

6. Exclusion zones should be provided not just around Critical Industry Clusters (CICs), but also villages, towns, cities, and educational facilities, such as Tocal.
7. Exclusion zones should be increased from 2km to 5km.
8. The SEPP amendments should also be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings, not just those within prescribed villages, towns and cities.
9. We are concerned that there are potential short and long term health and environmental concerns associated with the coal seam gas industry that have not, as yet, been properly investigated. We therefore consider it essential that villages, townships and their surrounds, and outlying residences, should all be protected from such risks due to future coal seam gas exploration and mining.
10. While the Critical Industry Cluster Land (Viticulture) identifies the larger viticulture areas in the Hunter Valley, it fails to recognise the many other vineyards located elsewhere in the state, including a number in the Wollombi Valley and surrounding areas. We therefore consider that all established and producing vineyards should be declared exclusion zones, not just the major regions in the Hunter Valley.
11. Wollombi Valley and surrounds also comprises part of the region nationally recognised as “*Hunter Valley Wine Country*” and “*Hunter Valley Tourism*”, exhibiting commercial agricultural interests and values consistent with other ‘critical industry clusters’ afforded exempt status under Section 3 of the amended SEPP. Tourism is a major source of income in the Wollombi Valley and that it should also be afforded exempt status under the amended SEPP.
12. In fact, all tourism activities associated with the viticulture industry that form part of the local tourism industry should be included along with the Viticulture CICs, e.g. tourism accommodation, shopping villages/shops, concert venues and restaurants/cafes.
13. Recognised scenic locations, e.g. Bow Wow Creek Gorge and heritage sites such as the Convict Trail Project along the Great North Road should be afforded protection from coal seam gas activities.
14. Very importantly, the provisions for exclusions preventing coal seam gas activity should apply to all identified agricultural food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
15. All coal seam gas operations should comply with the draft NSW Aquifer Interference Policy. This policy must become operational with the strength of the law and be rigorously monitored and enforced.

16. Land within 2km of waterways, National Parks, public land (Crown reserves), travelling stock reserves, water storages and community water resources should also be excluded from coal seam gas activities.
17. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas. For example, Councils should have the power to list new areas that they wish to remain CSG free.
18. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation such as Gloucester coal mining and CSG wells.

Yours sincerely,



Graham & Sue Taylor

“Belalla”

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LAGUNA NSW 2325

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DEE WHY NSW 2099

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srlup - Draft mining SEPP - Coal Seam Gas

From: [REDACTED]
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 3/04/2013 3:36 PM
Subject: Draft mining SEPP - Coal Seam Gas

Please accept this email and note that it does not represent the opinions of my employer or any Association that I belong too.

I request that my details are not published or referred to any organisation or person other than the intended recipients.

Dear Sir or Madam,

As an individual I would like to make comment on the Draft Mining SEPP as it relates to Coal Seam Gas developments in NSW.

I am a qualified Planner and I have been working in Local Government for nearly 30 years. I have undertaken assessments of coal seam gas projects and made representation to governments on community concerns, industry development and changes required to legislation to ensure that NSW is a productive environment for mining and petroleum development whilst meeting the increased awareness and social changes over the past fifteen years towards the mining industry.

I would like to offer an opinion of the proposed changes to the SEPP.

The draft SEPP is a positive action towards the formation of rules for the community and industry to be guided by and to establish a basis for future discussion and development.

The SEPP and the coal seam gas exclusion zones, detail areas of the State, in which the production of coal seam gas could logically occur without detrimental effects resulting to land uses.

The exclusion areas include:

residential zone means any of the following land use zones or a land use zone that is equivalent to any of those zones:

- (a) Zone R1 General Residential,
- (b) Zone R2 Low Density Residential,
- (c) Zone R3 Medium Density Residential,
- (d) Zone R4 High Density Residential,
- (e) Zone RU5 Village.

The identified zones are predominantly for a residential use and as such are not impacted to the same extent as agricultural land uses from the development of coal seam gas projects and aquifer interference. The development of mining or petroleum projects in residential zones is understandably a political hot potato and regulatory nightmare, however the land use is acceptable for coal seam gas developments to occur.

The development of gas wells and the radial exclusion zones from residences is acceptable. What appears to be the restriction is that horizontal drilling techniques cannot be used to access gas under residential zones. The land owners do not own below the land surface other than an interference zone for building support. The horizontal drilling of gas collection lines occurs well below the level of the support needed for residential

use. It is considered that a coal seam gas well can be located two kilometres away from a residential area and that via horizontal drilling, the collection line may be up to five kilometres long. This would allow gas wells in industrial zones that radiate out, which may go under residential areas.

The concern must therefore rely on the process of fracing and the potential impacts. Not all coal seams are required to be cracked to allow the release of gas. In any case if it is required to be fractured then this again does not cause ground surface disturbance other than at the well site. If correct investigation of rock fractures and interconnection zones is determined then gas leakage to the surface would be very rare. As I am sure the industry would advise, it is not in their interests to allow gas escape to occur. It is not proposed that whole sale gas line development occurs without extensive investigation of rock strata and for this reason the State would need to develop a higher level of investigation and recording regime to ensure true strata analysis and scientific review occurs prior to approval.

Areas of Camden Valley as an example could be further developed for gas production should horizontal drilling occurred. This is similar to the Gloucester basin and the coastal strip of Gosford.

The concerns relating to coal seam gas developments originally arose due to the interference of aquifers (hence the development of the aquifer interference legislation). The main concern about interference is related to the loss of agricultural ground water and reductions in agricultural land use. The interferences of aquifers under residential areas is very rarely raised and most land owners would not be aware of the aquifers under their residential suburb. Therefore the removal of water (lowering the water table) in the residential areas would have far less impact on land use practices than in rural areas of NSW.

The restriction on coal seam gas developments in the suggested zones (with the possible exception of small rural villages in NSW) also restricts the potential to meet supply and demand needs of the population of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. The Sydney basin (Newcastle to Wollongong) are the greatest user of natural gas and the Sydney Basin is rich in Coal. The coal could never be mined due to residential development on the surface however the resource could be used to extract natural gas (coal seam gas). This reduces the cost of production and transportation to the people that have the highest demands for industry and residential use. Similarly it allows electricity generation facilities to be developed using cleaner technology within the Sydney Basin area to meet peak demand requirements without the development of distant coal fired facilities.

The SEPP variation as proposed restricts the development of coal seam gas from horizontal drilling and access to a resource that will be demanded by NSW residents as shown in

9A Coal seam gas development prohibited in certain exclusion zones

(1) Despite any other provision of this Policy or any other environmental planning instrument, the carrying out of coal seam gas development is prohibited on or under land within a coal seam gas exclusion zone.

Although the ability to opt out is provided in Schedule 2 of the proposed amendments; just like the State Governments reaction to public comment, No Local Government area would be prepared to nominate itself for the production of coal seam gas and especially within residential areas.

The SEPP amendments as proposed will satisfy the public fear and opinions of the city centric residential dwellers and it does very little to address the variations in developments of this industry across the coal areas of NSW. Further development of guidelines and public consultation is required to ensure a high standard of assessment is available to guide this emerging and essential industry.

The proposed amendments Should delete the wording in Clause 9A

“or under”.

This will allow coal seam gas projects to be developed that can investigate gas production via horizontal drilling techniques outside the exclusion zone distances and to develop where environmental impacts are shown to be minimal to the land use of the area.

As Stated Previously.

Please accept this email and note that it does not represent the opinions of my employer or any Association that I belong too.

I request that my details are not published or referred to any organisation or person other than the intended recipients.

Regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

srlup - Coal Seam Methane Regulation

From: "Graeme Jessup" <graemejessup@optusnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 3/04/2013 3:44 PM
Subject: Coal Seam Methane Regulation

I am pleased to see that some long overdue regulation of the CSM industry is proposed, but I'm sorry to see that it apparently does not include a wider range of situations – see below.

And I think it is very unfair on those in rural areas where permission has already been granted – such as Gloucester.

- Failure to protect water catchments from mining – a 2011 Barry O'Farrell promise;
- Failure to protect agricultural land other than narrowly defined “critical industry clusters” – currently vineyards and horse studs;
- Allowing local councils to “opt out” of exclusion zones – e.g. a “pro-Barry O'Farrell” council in Western Sydney could decide that it is no longer worried about coal seam gas in residential areas and opt out of the exclusion zones, allowing for CSG well development within hundreds of metres from homes;
- No buffer zones to prevent coal seam gas mining up to the boundaries of critical industry infrastructure;
- Ambiguity on whether large lot residential or villages are protected;
- No rights for communities to say “No” to proposed gas fields;
- Do not appear to cover other forms of unconventional gas, such as tight sands and shale gas; and
- Leave it ambiguous as to whether other mining industries will have a back door to access coal seam gas for production.

Please amend the regulations to make it effective for all gas mining ventures. Regards, Graeme

Graeme Jessup
 8 Bassett St
 Mona Vale NSW 2103
 Ph 02 9999 6735
 Mob 0419 495 178

srlup - Submission regarding the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) for mining

From: Lucia Fischer <lucia.a.fischer@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 3/04/2013 10:05 PM
Subject: Submission regarding the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) for mining

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in regards to NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell's proposed amendments to the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) for mining. They do not protect water, agricultural land or homes. The SEPP must apply state-wide so that all citizens enjoy the same protection. Significant loopholes in the amended SEPP include:

- Failure to protect water catchments from mining – a 2011 Barry O'Farrell promise;
- Failure to protect agricultural land other than narrowly defined “critical industry clusters” – currently vineyards and horse studs;
- Allowing local councils to “opt out” of exclusion zones – e.g. a “pro-Barry O'Farrell” council in Western Sydney could decide that it is no longer worried about coal seam gas in residential areas and opt out of the exclusion zones, allowing for CSG well development within hundreds of metres from homes;
- No buffer zones to prevent coal seam gas mining up to the boundaries of critical industry infrastructure;
- Ambiguity on whether large lot residential or villages are protected;
- No rights for communities to say “No” to proposed gas fields;
- Do not appear to cover other forms of unconventional gas, such as tight sands and shale gas; and
- Leave it ambiguous as to whether other mining industries will have a back door to access coal seam gas for production.

I am therefore urging the government to strengthen the amendments so they protect communities.

Regards,

Lucia Fischer
Otford, NSW

srlup - Stop Coal Seem Gas

From: Paul Vonwiller <paulvonwiller@rocketmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/04/2013 3:22 PM
Subject: Stop Coal Seem Gas

Dear Sir/Madam

Thanks to thousands of people like myself who called for the protection of local communities from this polluting, high-risk industry, in February the O'Farrell Government announced a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas, horse studs and vineyards.

The New South Wales government has proposed an amendment to the relevant State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) in response to a public outcry over coal seam gas (CSG) exploration and production near residential areas.

The amendment includes a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas and critical industry clusters. While this is a significant step in the right direction, it fails to take into account the need for further environmental protections that safeguard our drinking water, our health and our conservation and agricultural lands

I look forward to response. Please notify me what action will be taken.

Your sincerely, Paul Vonwiller.

From: Christine Murawski <chm1@optusnet.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/04/2013 3:23 PM
Subject: CSG

We have to be 100% sure that CSG does not destroy our precious waterways and land
Cheers
Christine

srlup - Lachlan O'Brien

From: Marney OBrien <marneyobrien@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 10:05 AM
Subject: Lachlan O'Brien

11th April 2013

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

It is completely unacceptable that the NSW Government acknowledged the risk and concern associated with Coal Seam Gas extraction yet only applied exclusion zones to *some* of its residents and two identified Critical Industry Clusters. The following amendments are not only desired but necessary if you wish to protect *all* NSW residents and the future of food production in this State.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely,

Lachlan O'Brien
"Dreamlands"
Walgett

srlup - Isabella O'Brien

From: Marney OBrien <marneyobrien@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 10:05 AM
Subject: Isabella O'Brien

11th April 2013

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

It is completely unacceptable that the NSW Government acknowledged the risk and concern associated with Coal Seam Gas extraction yet only applied exclusion zones to *some* of its residents and two identified Critical Industry Clusters. The following amendments are not only desired but necessary if you wish to protect *all* NSW residents and the future of food production in this State.

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5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely,

Isabella O'Brien
"Dreamlands"
Walgett

srlup - Grace O'Brien

From: Marney OBrien <marneyobrien@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 10:05 AM
Subject: Grace O'Brien

11th April 2013

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

It is completely unacceptable that the NSW Government acknowledged the risk and concern associated with Coal Seam Gas extraction yet only applied exclusion zones to *some* of its residents and two identified Critical Industry Clusters. The following amendments are not only desired but necessary if you wish to protect *all* NSW residents and the future of food production in this State.

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4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely,

Grace O'Brien
"Dreamlands"
Walgett

srlup - Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

From: Anne Griffiths <amgriffiths57@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 10:03 AM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

To whom it may concern,

In your planning for Coal Seam Gas I would ask you to consider the far-reaching effects of this form of mining. I urge you to extend the Government's recent restrictions on CSG mining to all rural and residential areas. There is no such thing as safe CSG mining as seen by the problems experienced in those areas where this form of mining has been undertaken.

I ask you to consider that the two kilometre exclusion zone be extended to all dwellings. No one's health and quality of life should be adversely affected by this form of mining which will have dire consequences which will last even when the industries move on. In your planning please consider the appropriated strategies to ensure people's quality of life is not lessened by the documented effects of CSG mining as witnessed in the Tara fields as well as in overseas regions.

In your planning policy I ask that you also consider the lasting impacts of CSG mining on the landscape and environment as well as to people's health. Experiences in the USA demonstrate the disastrous impacts of CSG mining on groundwater loss and contamination of aquifers. This must not be allowed to happen to our precious water supplies. The government must apply the precautionary principle when dealing with an industry that has already demonstrated that it cannot mine without accidents happening. In your planning you must consider the inter generational consequences of CSG mining on our aquifer system and farmland. Therefore the provisions should include exclusions for food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

The SEPP amendments should protect productive agricultural land, water supplies and the health of local communities and so must also apply to projects that have been approved but have yet to begin exploration and production.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Griffiths

Sent from my iPad

srlup - CSG Submission

From: Eddie Roberts <oldgrowthed@yahoo.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 9:56 AM
Subject: CSG Submission
CC: "office@premier.nsw.gov.au" <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>,
 "office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au" <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

Coal Seam Gas Submission

The Coal Seam Gas industry is a very polluting, destructive industry that causes detrimental effects to health, water, land, communities, climate and property values.

It should only be allowed;

- outside 2kms of ANY residence not just communities of 2000 or more.
- if it can be shown to have no effect on our most precious commodity in Australia, water
- if it does not alienates farmland or makes it less productive.
- if it can be shown there are no possible fugitive gas emission both from the infrastructure above ground or from terrestrial emission.
- if there is full compensation to effected land holders before any works commence, including the requirement to purchase properties before works, for the full value plus compensation for the disruption to life and lively hood.
- If it can be proven it will have no green house gas emissions
- If it can show to have a social licence from the communities it plans to operate in.

It's destruction can not be reversed.

It has a short life cycle in any one locality leaving any locality it operates in a skeleton of the previous.

At the way this industry is allowed to operate at present by government it is vandalism on the grandest scale.

I too wish for affordable energy but not at the expense of my children's future. Renewable energy can give me this as well as a sustainable job.

Eddie Roberts
 172 Rowlands Ck Rd
 Uki 2484

srlup - Submission on Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

From: "Damien Wilkinson" <catdam@tadaust.org.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 9:49 AM
Subject: Submission on Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

My submission to the proposed amendments to the NSW Mining SEPP is as follows:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Damien Wilkinson
37 Teragalin Drive
Chain Valley bay NSW 2259
Ph 02 4358 1607

srlup - NSW Govt's proposed CSG exclusion zones

From: Dean Winwood <dean.winwood@scu.edu.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 9:46 AM
Subject: NSW Govt's proposed CSG exclusion zones

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.

It is highly unreasonable and an abrogation of a primary governmental duty of care and public welfare, to allow a clearly and definitively unproven process to be even remotely close to residential dwellings where wind and weather effects could clearly pose a real threat of transference and transmission of potentially, not to mention proven, dangerous and hazardous products, substances and byproducts of the mining processes involved.

2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.

The rise of serious public opposition and an increasing weight of measurable public opinion against the wholesale access, even the very existence of such mining practices, should overrule any and all governmental permissions for an industry which is now a proven unreliable, dishonest and standards violating entity, across the board. Any power to increasingly empower them to continue as such is a moral failure on the part of any governmental body, when it is clear that the mass of public opinion is exponentially going in the opposite direction.

3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

It is inarguable that any form of essential sources of life giving and sustenance based products for the survival of the human population should be sacrosanct when it comes to any potential threat to the viability, safety and ongoing sustainability of such essential sources, resources and modes of production and provision values involved, as well as anything which will cause any loss of revenue for those involved, as a byproduct of any form of unproven and potentially damaging externally imposed and invasive industries which they have no say in allowing or disallowing as an impact upon their industries and practices directly or indirectly.

4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

This is a given, due to very major shifts in public opinion against expansion, under the current climate of increasing evidence for the very real potential human, social health and welfare, flora, fauna, ecosystem and environmental damage which is caused by such practices, especially in places of human habitation and prime agricultural and strong tourism based areas

5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

If it is not acceptable for future practices to be approved of, then, by logical extrapolation, it is not remotely acceptable for any operations, whether they have already been approved or not, to continue in violation of the new rules and conditions of approval. Retrospective application should be a

mandatory imperative, otherwise, it is a tacit admission of gross and unacceptable disingenuous hypocrisy on the part of those making such decisions, and suggests, clearly, that the changes have been made for political expediency, and vote garnering, alone, rather than for the authentically held and enforced greater good of all.

Respectfully yours,

Dean Winwood
Client Support Officer,
Library,
Southern Cross University,
P.O. Box 157,
LISMORE..NSW...2480

E-MAIL.....dwinwood@scu.edu.au
PHONE.....02-66-269285/2037187 (61-International Code)
FAX.....02-66-203875 (61-International Code)

* Southern Cross University
* . *
*

STREET ADDRESS:
Military Road,
EAST LISMORE...NSW...2480
SCU CRICOS Provider Nos: NSW 01241G; QLD 03135E; WA 02621K

Religion is Humanity grasping after GOD,
The Gospel is GOD reaching out to Humanity
(John 3:16)

srlup - Community expectations - minimum requirements

From: karren mckenzie <karren_mckenzie6@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 9:43 AM
Subject: Community expectations - minimum requirements

Recommendations that do not have the communities best interests at heart will be rejected as will those candidates that put them forward. We need support from our government to ensure all members of our communities are protected with long term well thought out strategies, not short term profit-centric obliteration of our common resources in regards to all mining. Community needs to be protected, community puts governments in power, the equation is pretty simple. 5 Steps to re election(see below), these are the minimum of what needs to be put in place.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Kind regards
Karren McKenzie

The Director Strategic Regional Policy,
Department of Planning and Infrastructure,
GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001
srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

Submission on State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I am writing to express my concern at the limitations to the proposed framework for regulation of CSG in NSW, ie the proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP to implement CSG exclusion zones.

For the same reasons that there was need to protect zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and the thoroughbred horse industries, protection should also be afforded to those living and working on a wider set of properties who are vital to food production, to tourism or to environmental protection.

Water catchments and sensitive environmental areas also need protection from what is ultimately a very problematic and toxic industry that gives rise to highly uncertain above and underground effects upon air and particularly water. Toxic laden and salty 'produced water' that reaches the surface and needs to be disposed of, and underground chemical contamination of aquifers is a very real but difficult to detect problem that will be extremely costly to reverse, if that is at all possible. It is well understood that leakages within gas mining procedures are commonplace, even given best practice concrete and capped wells, let alone during production. So many unknowns exist underground in particular which it is clear, there is no intent to understand under the proposed regulations, until it is too late. The scale upon which this industry is intended to operate makes the multiplication of these uncertainties across the landscape unacceptable.

Water use data and/or projections of how CSG would affect our water systems do not really exist. The industry itself claims unpredictability in this regard, as does government. The northern Rivers region in particular has periodic high rainfall and extremes of water flow through hilly and mountainous terrain onto an often inundated floodplain where much of the proposed industrial activity is proposed to take place, and this makes it extremely difficult to manage produced water through either surface storage methods or re-injection. Our wetland areas below all of this proposed activities are extremely important parts of our coastal recreation and biodiversity assets which are significantly at risk from the proposed industrialisation of upstream areas. The use, sterilisation and loss of underground water in such a dry continent is also a major concern for all. This also points to the issue of cumulative impacts, which it seems are always ignored because they are too difficult to calculate or to predict, but which we know exist and are problematic. In the context of real renewable energy alternatives that are developing apace, despite the relative lack of subsidies compared with those given to fossil fuels, and which can be developed without these known problems, it is all the clearer that CSG should not be considered a sane prospect in the manner proposed simply because it can generate immediate revenue streams to the few with vested interests in it. It is very clear where they have actually been asked, that the people of this state do not want CSG.

A further concern with CSG in general is the issue of fugitive emissions which are also likely to be commonplace, but which have been barely studied. The escape of methane is a significant problem when we consider that approvals for this industry are premised on the notion that it has a cleaner carbon footprint than coal, and we are trying to limit greenhouse gas impacts, which Southern Cross University scientists suggest on the basis of preliminary research, is likely to put CSG on an equal or worse footing with coal burning – if we actually took such emissions into account.

The provided amendments under this SEPP appear to allow local councils to exempt an area from the protections, but fail to give them the right to include additional areas for protection. This is

unreasonable given that council are intended to represent the interests of local ratepayers, not industry players.

My recommendations are:

We need to provide a planning process that takes seriously our most important interests ahead of granting licenses, through a wider understanding of 'strategic' land use planning, that considers the consequences of the cumulative impact of the mining industry. This would take into account existing bioregional assessments of landscapes, incorporating expert analyses of spatial regional characteristics, ecology, geology and hydrology and then consider the related risks on that scale. In addition and at minimum:

The SEPP amendments should include a 2km buffer around ALL residential dwellings.

The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.

The provisions should include exclusions for ALL identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thankyou for your consideration of this submission.

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: "Peter Dowson" <peterd@3dots.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 9:29 AM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I would like to make a submission the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

My submission is the following:

- 1) Impose a moratorium on all Coal Seam Gas exploration and drilling, effective immediately.
- 2) Conduct a proper independent and scientific assessment of health implications of the industry, uncontrollable gas leakage from affected areas (during exploration, commercial production, and post-production maintenance), treatment of produced water (including prevention of contamination of surrounding ecosystems).
- 3) Royal Commission into the approval process whereby the former and now current State Governments have granted licence for destruction of private and public property, with complete disregard towards compensation of public or private land owners for loss of land value, damage to health, wanton destruction of arable land, sub-surface aquifers and wildlife habitat.
- 4) Imposition of a Coal Seam Gas exclusion zone around the State of New South Wales, the people of this State have overwhelmingly demonstrated on numerous occasions they we do not support this industry. Any legislation that allows its continuance is in direct defiance of the will of the public, and will be repealed eventually anyway, so sooner is better than later.

The people of New South Wales have spoken loudly and clearly, now it is time to 'Lock the State'.

Regs,

Peter Dowson

50 / 69 Cook Road, Centennial Park, NSW, 2021

E: peterd@3dots.com.au

M: 0407 887 868

srlup - Draft SEPP Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Areas

From: Tngerrard <tngerrard@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 9:22 AM
Subject: Draft SEPP Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Areas

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to formally register my support for the Coal Seam Gas Exclusion SEPP and think the government have made a small but positive step in the right and moral direction for once.

In saying this I believe the exclusion area should be extended to cover prime agricultural land as well.

Water and food are vital to our survival and CSG exploration is set to destroy our ability to be self sufficient in this regard. I would like to see ALL coal gas extraction ceased immediately and indefinitely.

However knowing we are too stupid to see the truth through the money I think the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) may be met (just) if:

- * the SEPP applied to ALL gas extraction and exploration (including already approved DA's),
- * was extended to cover prime agricultural land,
- * the residential zone and agricultural zone was 5km at least (seriously I love horses, I have two but are they vital to our national security and welfare?),
- * vital water resource areas/aquifers are included with the exclusion area such as the Tomago Sand beds (Fullerton Cove),
- * the impacts on habitat fragmentation and loss of visual amenity are addressed and mitigated.

Its clearly obvious by using Google earth that CSG extraction is destroying our environment and causing severe habitat fragmentation and loss of visual amenity whether the government wants to admit it or not. Just look at some of the areas in Qld.

Australia is selling itself cheap and if we dont live to regret these days our grandchildren definitely will.

Sincerely,

Nicole Gerrard
Boolaroo Nsw

Sent from Samsung Mobile

srlup - Re: DRAFT NSW GOVERNMENT SEPP Amendment On CSG Exclusion Zones

From: <pacussinet@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 11:23 PM
Subject: Re: DRAFT NSW GOVERNMENT SEPP Amendment On CSG Exclusion Zones

From: pacussinet@bigpond.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 10:09 PM
To: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au
Subject: DRAFT NSW GOVERNMENT SEPP Amendment On CSG Exclusion Zones

This submission is addressed to the Director of Strategic Regional Policy:

With concern and indignation I write to you to reconsider the Mining SEPP as they are designed specifically to meet the needs of the mining companies. These amendments certainly do not protect those living on farms and rural properties as well as they fail to protect vital food growing lands ,water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

These so called amendments are more like loopholes. To allow local councils to exempt an area from the protection while at the same time failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection is absurd. Everyone knows that local governments are the most corrupt forms of governments! These amendments suit the mining industry so it is clear that the SEPP amendments designed by your department are favouring the global unconventional mining business and ignoring the mere 75 percentage of NSW residents across the state who clearly and overwhelmingly oppose this dirty and destructive industry. 75% Sir ! There is no social licence for this industry but despite that your government insists with this pretence of "community consultation".

But if your government was serious about doing the right thing for the people of NSW then the SEPP mining amendments should be broadened to include a 2 km buffer around all residential dwellings. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive areas. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal and to all other forms of unconventional gas. And last but not least the SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

The NSW State government has the obligation to protect all NSW population not just some from this invasive and destructive industry. We have had enough of the dirty politics. Its time for the NSW government to act in favour of all the people of NSW and respect our position with relation to Unconventional Gas and mining in general.

With all my respects
 ANA CUSSINET

srlup - changes to the Mining SEPP - CSG Exclusion Zones

From: Helen Meadows <shmeadows@harboursat.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 11:07 PM
Subject: changes to the Mining SEPP - CSG Exclusion Zones
CC: John Schroeder <johnfschroeder63@yahoo.com.au>, Greg and Christine Lewis <chris.greg.lewis@gmail.com>

To: The Director, Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir,

Our community group, Communities of Congewai Catchment Inc (COCCI), objects to the proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP.

It is our contention that the exclusion zones do not of themselves provide adequate protection from the potential adverse impacts of coal seam gas mining.

What this proposal does is relegate virtually all citizens who live outside defined residential areas to a lesser level of protection. This is blatant discrimination. This relegates our members and community to the status of second class citizens. This is wholly unacceptable.

This proposal also allows a lower standard of environmental protection for the extensive lands that do not fall within the proposed definitions. And it is the concern of our members that the current standard of environmental safeguards is wholly insufficient.

In particular, we wish to draw your attention to CSG exploration that has already commenced in Cedar Creek (to the west of Cessnock):

Swamp Oak (salt tolerant) is present along Congewai Creek above Cedar Creek, but below Cedar Creek only River Oak (salt intolerant) is present. This is evidence that the inflow of fresh water from Cedar Creek into Congewai Creek is significant to the condition of Congewai Creek. Any change to that subtle salt balance in Congewai Creek can have a disproportionate impact on the health of Congewai Creek. You see, the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority recognises that Congewai Creek (especially below Cedar Creek) has highly erodable soils. Extensive work has been done over the years to stabilize those soils. In fact, many of the River Oaks were planted by the State Government after the 49/55 floods.

For the Cedar Creek site, any decanting of salt laden groundwater, or indeed ANY interference in the flows into Congewai Creek could have devastating consequences downstream. The River Oaks that are holding large sections of the banks of Congewai Creek in place could stress further, possibly die. They are already showing their age, so even a relatively small amount of salt related stress could be enough to tip them over the edge. And if that happens, will the CGS operator or the NSW Government accept responsibility for any consequent erosion, or increased flood damage during subsequent flood events? Our community suspects not - especially seeing how poorly the Derelict Mines Programme has been handled in the Cessnock area over the years.

We have no confidence that this matter has been properly addressed during the approval process for the current exploration licence relating to Cedar Creek, and our community has absolutely no confidence in the current approval process for any subsequent production proposal.

What we seek is for a far more rigorous consent process for any CSG operations at Cedar Creek, and indeed for all locations - whether they fall within the exclusion zones or not.

We do not believe that treating us as second class citizens is the right way to move forward.

Steve Meadows

Secretary,

Community of Congewai Catchment Inc (COCCI)

Postal 2574 Wollombi Road WOLLOMBI 2325

Email shmeadows@harboursat.com.au

Phone (02) 4998 3263

srlup - further amendments

From: katinka smit <ktnksmt@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 10:46 PM
Subject: further amendments

To the Director Strategic Regional Policy

Furthermore, to add to my previous submission, I suggest that these following points be noted as a list of sensible and progressive amendments to the proposed amendments. I trust that you will consider them and see the sense in including them.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Sincerely,

Katinka Smit

srlup - sepp amendments

From: katinka smit <ktnksmt@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 10:39 PM
Subject: sepp amendments

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am concerned that the proposed amendments to SEPP are not enough protection for our precious resources. I include tourism, flora and fauna, rural households, farms and water catchments as part of this definition of precious resources.

I am a resident of a proposed mining area in the Northern Rivers. I live in a beautiful valley with resident black cockatoos (a flock of 38), wallabies, paddymelons, platypus, wedge-tailed eagles, and various other endangered rainforest species of other plants and animals as well. I have also seen the rare bandy-bandy on a night time walk right near my chook pen. A spring-fed creek runs through our property and is visited by the above creatures every day. I consider myself blessed to live here, to share this space with these magnificent creatures, day after day. I am a visitor, a guardian of this place. I moved here because I wanted to live in the peace of nature, away from industry and traffic and pollution and noise, to grow my own food, to care for the land, to feel at peace with my spirit. I came here to return home, after travelling abroad for the last 4 1/2 years, in the most profound sense of the word. And I am not the only person living in this area for those reasons. Not only that, the entire area is blessed by a wealth of natural resources that attract MILLIONS of national and international visitors every year. The property market here is one of the most vibrant in the country. We, as a community, contribute to our country, a wealth of knowledge, culture, care, stewardship and citizenship that is denser per capita than any other rural area in Australia.

We have rightly fought to protect this and have managed to halt CSG mining and exploration for the moment in our precious places. You may have noticed that the rest of Australia is also doing their best to protect their precious assets as well.

I can see that a fair amount of money has successfully lobbied for the viticulture and equine exemptions - and rightly too, these are valuable industries. So too are our farms, our flora and fauna, our water catchments, our rural communities. Our health industry is also in peril from this industry - the money spent on post-drilling care will be astronomical. Pharmaceutical companies will of course be ecstatic, but who is going to build and pay for the amount of hospitals that we will need? The cost to our aquifers and water bodies, including the water table, is beyond recompense. You can't unpoison water. The word doesn't even exist.

To illustrate the importance of water - the Egyptian PM was once recorded as saying that if their neighbours dammed the Nile, they would not hesitate to go to war.

The Australian people are being backed against a wall. Do not make us go to war with our own government. It is your duty - your moral and ethical and political obligation - to take care of the health and well being of the people and the land of Australia, first and foremost.

The evidence so far - if you would kindly take note of the independent evidence and not that supplied by the mining companies (and the shocking, corrupt practices attached to their supposed supplied evidence or rather lack thereof) - is damning. CSG mining is deadly to stock, is toxic to and irremovable from our water supplies, is responsible for enormous leaks of methane (just because the government doesn't include it in its little ledger doesn't mean it isn't there) which we all know is responsible for some of the worst planetary effects imaginable (and the cost of that???? 2/3's of

Australia's population living on the coast????? Extreme weather with billions of dollars worth of damage?? Need I go on?), and is detrimental to human health as well. Beyond that, we don't even know what half of those chemicals even do. Remember DDT? "She'll be right mate," is not what I voted for.

If you have any balls at all, and any vision - if you dare to be a rarity in the political arena and have some integrity - then I urge (beg, demand, appeal to your innermost goodness as a human being) you to work for a more broad exclusion zone from this truly terrible industry. In fact, in an ideal world I would be writing to you in 5 years time to congratulate you for your foresight and courage in promoting a far more sustainable future for us all (all of us who share this planet) and banning this industry and all its toadies entirely.

If you do not, then areas such as mine - all over NSW - will be ruined. And your hand will be on the paper that signed it all away.

I ask you to consider this very carefully. I ask you to consider the reality of what we would lose. I ask you to consider the long term implications of such a decision as to not fully protect our precious resources. I ask you to consider what these precious resources really are. I ask you to think of Australia; as a land, as a place of spirit, as a people. I ask you to represent me.

It occurred to me this morning - how far would a person go to protect their land? Their livelihood, their home, their family? Their life? Will our government force us to find out?

We will not give up the fight, of that you can be assured. I urge you to do the right thing and push hard for stringent, well thought out exclusions that include ALL our valuable farming land, our rural communities, our water resources, our endangered flora and fauna, and our tourism industry as a whole. The proposed amendments as they stand are not enough.

Yours sincerely,

Katinka Smit

srlup - Submission for Coal Seam Gas residential exclusion zone

From: Chris Davey <chrisdavey160@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 10:38 PM
Subject: Submission for Coal Seam Gas residential exclusion zone
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

Christine Davey
Principal
Laguna Public School
3738 The Great North Road
Laguna 2325
11th April 2013

To
The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am the Principal of Laguna Public School. I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy - Coal Seam Gas residential exclusion zone. I commend the NSW government for its plan to amend the mining SEPP to set controls and a buffer zone to stop the development of CSG. This is a step in the right direction, however it needs to go further. I ask that the NSW government ensures that mining can't occur in any water catchment area.

I live and work at Laguna. This is in the Wollombi water catchment area. Laguna has a thriving small school of 50 students, a fire brigade, church, community hall, trading post, cricket grounds. It is a community centre for many people who have properties in the Valley. Coal seam gas mining threatens air quality and health. The Wollombi Valley including Laguna needs to be protected not only for water, the essence of life, but also for the colonial heritage of the Valley. The Great North Road is a World Heritage listed area- convict built. It runs through the Wollombi Valley. Laguna School has a heritage listed sandstone building. The Laguna area attracts many tourists especially overseas tourists due to its World Heritage listing. Coal seam gas mining will seriously detract and jeopardise the colonial heritage of the area.

Given the risks of Coal Seam Gas Mining, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.

I teach lessons to the students of Laguna School in the Key Learning Area of Human Society and its Environment on Government. I teach that the role of governments is to protect and look after people. I ask the NSW government to protect and look after the people and especially the children of all of NSW for they are our future. I therefore plead for an exclusion zone to be set around all schools in NSW.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Davey

From: <yhartman@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 10:32 pm
Subject: Submission on the Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

For the attention of:
The Director, Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
NSW State Government

11 April, 2013

Dear Director,

I write to make a submission on the Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment of Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013. Although this amendment represents a step forward in the protection of the citizens of NSW and their environment from the harmful effects of coal seam gas mining, there are some serious concerns which remain to be addressed.

1. Firstly, I wish to draw attention to the fact that this amendment only applies to coal seam gas (CSG) and not to other forms of unconventional mining, such as shale gas and tight gas extraction. Further, given the unseemly expansion of conventional coal mining in NSW, I would ask that the amendment include ALL of these other forms of mining as well. It is of little comfort to be protected from coal seam gas mining if one has a coal mine or other form of extractive industry next to one's bedroom window. Therefore, the SEPP should apply to all the forms of mining that I have mentioned above.

2. It is a positive development that exclusion zones will be declared within 2km of residential and future growth residential areas. However, I believe that the SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around ALL residential dwellings. It seems that under the current proposal, isolated dwellings are not protected. I do not see why people who don't live in a town should not enjoy the same protections as those who do. This lack of protection for non-town dwellers suggests that the government has little regard for farmers and others living in rural areas.

3. Furthermore, the current 'opt out' clause, which allows councils to 'identify areas for removal from all or part of an exclusion zone to enable coal seam gas development to occur' (NSW Government Planning & Infrastructure 2013) would seem to largely invalidate the very premise of exclusion zones, if a council can simply opt out of them. The amendment needs to be changed such that this right should be removed altogether. This would provide certainty and real protection for the people of NSW. As it stands, the ability to 'opt out' makes a charade of the proposed amendment.

4. In addition the SEPP amendments should apply also to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval and thus have not yet commenced operation.

5. Finally, it is somewhat bemusing that the exclusions for so-called critical industry clusters only include horse breeding and viticulture, but not agriculture, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas. I fail to see why horses and wine should be considered more critical than our capacity to grow food and access clean water, unless special interests are being protected at the expense of the majority. We all need clean water and food. Our agricultural and tourist industries do not deserve to be decimated in order to serve the interests of the powerful few. Therefore, I ask that the SEPP be amended to include exclusion zones for agricultural areas, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

I trust that you will give serious consideration to this submission.

Yours faithfully

Dr Yvonne Hartman

57a Esmonde Street
Lismore NSW 2480

References

NSW Government Department of Planning & Infrastructure 2013, Explanation of the intended effect of the proposed amendment to the SEPP, Available:
http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/on-exhibition#mining_sepp_2013

srlup - Submission concerning Draft Mining SEPP to implement CSG exclusion zones

From: Cad Bury <cadburyd@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 10:32 PM
Subject: Submission concerning Draft Mining SEPP to implement CSG exclusion zones

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure

The proposed changes provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters. Although one could argue that 2km buffer zones are not an adequate distance.

These changes do not include provisions to protect people living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Another concern is that Councils will have the power to exempt an area from the protections, whilst the amendments also fail to give Councils the right to include additional areas for protection.

The Department also needs to consider the impacts of mining gas and coal.

Submission points:

1. The SEPP amendments be broadened to include buffer zones around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local Councils be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for Councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions include exclusions for all identified food producing areas, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards
Ingleburn Resident

srlup - SEPP

From: Christina Bennett <christinajbennett@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 10:19 PM
Subject: SEPP

Christina from Urliup NSW

Feedback regarding the draft SEPP amendments: I welcome the changes to implement a 2km buffer zone for residents. However these buffer zones need to be also in place to protect areas of water catchment and ground water. As someone who uses pristine (bottled water quality!) bore water on their rural property (and whole family relies on it for drinking water and watering vege beds in the drier months and our neighbours too, !) I know the importance of protecting our amazing ground water. I am frightened that this water could be threatened from CSG mining. Please extend the amendments to include water catchments and underground water.

yours sincerely

Christina

Rod and Robin BESIER
'Avonview'
7 Forbesdale Close
FORBESDALE N.S.W. 2422



Phone/Fax: (02) 6558 9883
Email: r.besier@bigpond.com

Welcome to Gloucester at the foothills of the Barringtons

11th April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
Box 39 GPO
SYDNEY NSW 2001
Email: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir

Submission on State Environment Planning Policy Amendment - CSG Exclusion Zones

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed amendments to the SEPP (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries).

We think it is just common sense that all mining activity, not just coal seam gas projects, should be excluded from areas close to established towns and villages and from land that has high farming value. We appreciated the move to set limits on mining and balance the competing and legitimate interests of different industries. The proposed changes provide welcome protection for certain zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters. While this is a significant step in the right direction, the amendments do little to protect those living on farms and other rural properties and fail to provide environmental protections that safeguard our drinking water, other vital food producing lands, water catchments, our health, our livelihoods, tourism and sensitive environmental areas. We make the following comments on the SEPP Amendment:

1. The SEPP should extend the 2 km buffer to Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL). The amendment does not set a sensible balance between short-term mining wealth and the State's strategic agricultural interests. In particular, it does nothing to protect BSAL as defined by the SRLUP Process. In the recent SRLUP document, Gloucester is not classified as 'prime' agricultural land by the fact that the landscape is considered to have 'folds'. An aerial video footage recently taken for an ABC news story on CSG clearly shows a Valley which is highly productive in beef and dairy and can be used for lucerne growing and food production for many generations to come. We view this as a glaring and inexcusable oversight. We have no faith that other elements of the SRLUP process will provide any meaningful protection to BSAL.
2. The 2 km buffer zone should be extended to all rural residences. We have frequently written to all political parties voicing our deep concern that the State has failed in its duty to protect rural residents and their assets from inappropriate expansion of mining and gas extraction. CSG has no place in productive agricultural areas, just as it has been excluded from high residential areas such as Camden. If 2 km is the appropriate separation between residences and CSG, then it should apply to all residences. There is a point (in economic terms) where the cost of purchasing residences to allow CSG development is more than outweighed by the profit from CSG production. This should be the mechanism for determining where CSG can proceed. There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. It would appear, however, the Government, by creating the 2km buffer zone around Camden, sees there is a problem.

2.

3. We are in the unfortunate position at Forbesdale where we will be surrounded by gas wells and in fact, there is a drilled and capped well less than 400 metres from our home. It is only fair that any policy set in place by the Government should treat all citizens of NSW the same, not just in City-based electorates. Therefore, if this 2km exclusion zone does not extend to regional areas like Gloucester, then these areas should be part of a compulsory acquisition zone.
4. The Deputy Premier, Andrew Stoner admitted on a recent ABC 7:30 programme that he would not like to be living next to a CSG well because it will reduce his property's value and there is always the potential for something to go wrong. **If the Deputy Premier doesn't want a well near his home, neither do the residents of the Gloucester Valley.**
5. These amendments only address CSG. Given that the SEPP covers mining more broadly, it would have been timely to consider appropriate buffers for other activities, particularly open-cut coal mining. While we appreciate the current attempt to offset CSG from residences, the harmful environmental and health impacts of open-cut coal mining are well researched and documented. There is clearly an even stronger case for a similar offset of open-cut coal mining activities.
6. We are also affected by a proposed open-cut coal mine, the Rocky Hill Coal Project, so the residents of Forbesdale will be doubly impacted upon. Our homes are within 2kms of the proposed open cut mine and some within 400 metres of AGL's coal seam gas project. Even more reason for the SEPP amendments to be expanded to apply to open-cut coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction, including shale and tight gas so as to protect residents who are caught up in overlapping projects which are beyond their control.
7. The "opt-out" clause is fraught with problems and should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas. These amendments although allowing Councils to exempt an area from the protections, fail to give Councils the right to include additional areas for protection; the amendments do not cover other types of unconventional gas and they do not cover coal mining. The NSW Government has stated that it wishes to give the planning power back to Councils but it still is over-riding their decision-making.
8. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval and have not yet commenced operations.

Yours faithfully

Rod Besier

Robin Besier

srlup - Exclusion zone submission - Attention Director of Strategic Regional Policy

From: Suzie Deyris <sdeyris@tpg.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 10:01 PM
Subject: Exclusion zone submission - Attention Director of Strategic Regional Policy

11/04/2013

Dear Sir,

Please accept my submission along with serious concern about the limited protection of the proposed 2km CSG exclusion zone.

It is my understanding that Policy is not a legislation, and can be easily changed so offers little true security of land or water.

Bleow are some points that could be implemented while renewable energy (intelligent energy) comes to the fore.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 4km around any residence, above or under ground.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed .
- 2 b .Councils should have the right and power to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

All unconventional mining should be put to referendum and if our habits need to change and we become a "poorer" country, we will be richer in the only real way that matters. -- Health

If the State or federal Gov need money why not have a Lottery.
 -- With land won protected for all time and being able to be camped on by the winner.

Thank You for your consideration
 and attention
 Suzie Deyris

Department of Planning and Infrastructure
PO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Atten: Director Strategic Regional Policy

Re: Draft Amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum, Production and Extractive Industries)(Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Name: Lisa Norman

Email: grant Norman@bigpond.com

Address: 'Rowena' Spring Ridge NSW 2343

I am a member of the SOS Liverpool Plains. Prohibiting new coal seam gas extractive activities within 2 km of residential areas is a step in the right direction but does nothing to protect rural communities with populations of less than 1000 residents and all other rural landholders who live on their properties. Once again we are being treated as second class citizens. By imposing these exclusion zones the Government has recognised that coal seam gas extraction is not safe for residential areas and therefore it is not safe for ALL residents of NSW.

The opportunity for Councils to seek exemption from these exclusion zones also raises huge concerns of corruption and the promise of undue pressure on Councils from coal seam gas companies.

We would like to see the inclusion of strategic agricultural land to the critical clusters that have also been granted exclusion. With the continued population growth and land use conflicts, the need to protect our food and fibre producing areas is paramount. We keep hearing about the concern over food security in the future and yet food producing areas have not been included. The infrastructure that is needed for these developments - roads, holding ponds, pipelines, well heads, compressor stations - are totally inconsistent with current farming practices.

The Gateway Process was introduced to consider projects on or within 2 km of strategic agricultural land but once again we have the 'opt out' clause whereby if the project is considered to be of exceptional value to the state then a gateway certificate would not be required. We need these agricultural lands to be protected once and for all.

Thankyou,

Lisa Norman
Secretary
SOS Liverpool Plains
'Rowena'
Spring Ridge NSW 2343

srlup - CSG

From: "Margaret Cusack" <margaretcusack17@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 9:36 PM
Subject: CSG
Attachments: Letter to Kevin Humphries.doc

Dear Director of Strategic Regional Policy,
I wish to express my deep concerns over the NSW Draft Amendment to Mining SEPP. I will enclose my letter to our local Member Kevin Humphries today. The regional areas are not even being considered at all. There is no proper consultation with these groups nor time to do so.

Councils are not given the right to include additional areas for protection. Exclusion zones should be extended to all people of NSW.

The buffer of two kilometres is totally unreal when we consider rural properties. Horizontal drilling can occur under rural homes. Unconventional gas and coal mining are not covered as having protection. Farmers and growers are not protected.

Please reconsider all of the options particularly for our area from Gunnedah on to Narrabri and Moree on which we find prime agricultural land.

Many thanks for reconsidering the position re' Coal Seam Gas exploration in regional areas. Small towns have no chance and many feel powerless as money talks all languages. There needs to be a vision which extends beyond the 'now' in order to provide food for our future generations.

Sr Margaret Therese Cusack rsj



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srlup - NO COAL SEAM GAS MINING !

From: Lynda Fletcher <lyndafletcher7@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 9:32 PM
Subject: NO COAL SEAM GAS MINING !

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

srlup - Mick Williams (CSG Submission)

From: Michael Williams <mick_w1946@yahoo.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 9:19 PM
Subject: Mick Williams (CSG Submission)
Attachments: Coal Seem Gas.pdf

Dear, Director Strategic regional Policy,

I don't give a dam about myself, but I do care about my own children and grandchildren and those of other people.

1. No **Coal Seem Gas (CSG)** mining at all. You have heard all the arguments, therefore I need say no more. The negative consequences of CSG extraction long term will be extreme.
2. This question is irrelevant if no CSG expansion is allowed.
3. As above
4. As Above
5. As above

I cannot understand how any sensible adults can conclude that digging thousands of holes in the ground can be safe, or desirable, now, or in the future. Peter Trute, Senior Financial Writer '*Gas customers face perfect storm (copy attached)*' may be making relevant points that will impact short term, but long term CSG extraction will make the 'Hardy' Asbestos disaster seem miniscule. I am 67 years old and I cannot believe how we humans dig everything up, knock down most of our trees and forests, pollute our water way, harvest are fauna and flora to near extinction and then let American companies into Australia to turn our country into the junk yard that is the USA.

Just about everyone I speak to is against CSG extraction and I am fed up with our *Simple Simon* approach to producing energy. If the amount of money our governments put into oil, coal and gas was put into renewable energy, within 50 years Australians could probably be producing, all or most, of the energy they need, with less digging, burning and polluting.

Thanks and regards,

Mick Williams
Ph 02 9618 3694
Mobile 0414 691 366

srlup - Submission re proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) CSG exclusion zones.

From: <ants.nest@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 9:16 PM
Subject: Submission re proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) CSG exclusion zones.

I would like to request that exclusion zones include the following changes:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around **all residential dwellings**.
2. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to **apply to coal mining in drinking water catchment areas** and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to all projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

If CSG mining not safe in residential areas or near horses and vineyards it can't be safe near any residential home, in drinking water catchments, on food producing lands or in environmentally sensitive areas such as the Pilliga State Forest.

Ant Van Haren
65 Riverdale Court
Grafton NSW 2460

srlup - Viticulture Critical Industry Cluster

From: Lynn Wall <lynnywall@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 9:07 PM
Subject: Viticulture Critical Industry Cluster

We strongly support the proposal to include the Wollombi Valley in the Viticulture Critical Industry Cluster.

Sincerely

Lynn & Ron Wall

--

Lynn Wall
Wollombi Massage Therapies
Email lynnywall@gmail.com
Phone: 02 4998 3277

The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

The CSG and Unconventional Gas industry must not be allowed on the Northern Rivers of NSW. The landholders & rural residents on the Northern Rivers are opposed to this industry and I have the following questions we need answered.....

What will a gas well on a farm near ours impact on land valuations (Our Superannuation)?

Who is going to want to buy a farm or property near a CSG production well?

How are our roads going to cope with the traffic?

The experts cannot guarantee what drilling will do to our water, they have given this the go ahead but do NOT know the full extent. How far will our water tables drop?

What are they going to do with all the waste? .

What will happen when we get the next big flood?

Who will end up with that salt and waste water then?

Too many questions with no answers.

Our water and land is OUR livelihoods we depend on both, where are they going to grow their food if we cannot. (Get it Overseas?) Can we allow this to happen.....Can we afford for this invasive, dangerous and dirty industry to gain a foothold in our area. We need to preserve our water and our lands for the food security of our present and future generations.

There is no social license here for turning our region into an industrialized gas field. We rely too heavily on clean air, unpolluted water and good soil for our food security to risk the potential damage that has been caused by the CSG industry. The Gateway process and White energy paper is not good enough and no we won't give it a go. We have a strong tourist industry and farming sector that are not prepared to give up our way of life for the greed of our state government and mining companies. This industry is not wanted here and not welcome. The community strength and resolve to turn away mining companies will not go away. We have too much to lose, our health, our livelihoods our way of life

For the past 3 years I have been researching the CSG industry in Australia. This is what I have found

How much evidence do we need to say this is an unsafe Please see these sites below

Contaminated sites and accidents related specifically to CSG/LNG in Australia

September 12, 2012 - Gas Company illegally emitting acid rain compounds for 3 years – AGL

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/video/national/watch/26473248>

AGL found for 3 years have been pumping 30% more Sulphur Oxide into air than environmental limits allow. Also found to be exceeding limits for hazardous waste stored on site.

September 4, 2012 – Farmers and environmental groups blast new gas industry ad that claims coal seam gas is safe for groundwater – APPEA

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/farmers-and-environmental-groups-blast-new-gasindustry-ad-that-claims-coal-seam-gas-is-safe-for-groundwater/story-e6freon6-1226464606972>

<http://www.news.com.au/breaking-news/national/csg-ad-criticised-for-false-claims/storye6frfku9-1226464941206>

Deceptive advertising by APPEA claims that CSG is safe for groundwater. A PRO-COAL seam gas (CSG) television advertisement has falsely claimed Australia's national science agency believed groundwater was safe from contamination by CSG mining, CSIRO says. The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) authorised the television ad that aired on Network Nine at the weekend. The ad claimed CSIRO believed groundwater was "safe from coal seam gas" activities. CSIRO has rejected the claims. "At no time has CSIRO made such a statement, and nor do the results of CSIRO research support such a statement," a spokesman said in a statement.

September 4, 2012 - CSIRO wants ads pulled as coal seam gas industry claims rejected

<http://www.coastaltimes.com.au/news/national/national/general/csiro-wants-ads-pulled-ascoal-seam-gas-industry-claims-rejected/2658104.aspx>

August 20, 2012 – Dalby gas fire denial – Arrow

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/dalby-gas-fire-not-csg-related-arrow-energy-20120820-24h5s.html>

Arrow Energy says a gas fire burning on one of its properties in Queensland is under control and is not linked to the company's coal seam gas activities. Fire fighters were called to a grass fire at the site of Arrow's Daandine CSG project, west of Dalby, on the weekend. The grass fire has been put out. Arrow Energy says the gas fire is centred on an old coal mine well, and is continuing to burn, but in a controlled, secure way.

July 20, 2012 - CHINCHILLA beef producer David Hubbard has seen his property impacted four times by QGC spillages this year – GGC

<http://qcl.farmonline.com.au/news/state/agribusiness-and-general/general/qgc-should-spilldetails-not-just-gas/2614696.aspx>

"Drilling fluid from a QGC mining rig had twice spilled into the Condamine River, a few hundred metres from where he accessed water for stock, and fluid also had spilled twice across a boundary fence into his paddock, he said. The accidents, which had occurred at a neighbouring property, had taken place over a single month. While he expressed his annoyance these incidents were occurring in the first place – a familiar story for many across rural Queensland - Mr Hubbard said his ongoing

frustration was that he was not being adequately informed by the company about the discovery of the incidents and the follow-up investigations into the impacts. He said he had only learnt about two of the incidents following his own initiative and questions.”

May 24, 2012 – Varanus gas explosion report slams Apache Energy – LNG/Apache

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-05-24/varanus-gas-explosion-reportreleased/4031146/?site=northwestwa>

The report is critical of Apache, saying the company had ultimate responsibility for maintaining the site and should have identified the risk that corrosion posed to the affected pipeline. It has described Apache’s safety culture as ‘middle-rank’.

July 20, 2012 – Corybas leak sparks alarm – Geraldton – AWE

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/regional/gascoyne/a/-/news/14280202/corybas-leaksparks-alarm/>

Gas bubbling at the surface of a fracking well on The Grange farm, south of Dongara, has raised new concerns about the environmental safety of the process. Nearby growers expressed fears about contamination of groundwater supplies when a leak was discovered at AWE’s Corybas wellhead. AWE managing director Bruce Clement this week confirmed the company found a gas leak on the valve of Corybas 1, which was bubbling up through rainwater in the cellar trap. Mr Clement said the leak at the well, which was fracked at 2.51km in 2009, was picked up during routine maintenance checks and was being fixed now.

July 6, 2012 – Coal seam gas blamed for health problems

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2012/07/06/3540381.htm>

The Australian Medical Association’s incoming president in Queensland has confirmed several of its member doctors have raised concerns that residents living near coal seam gas mining operations may be showing symptoms of gas exposure.

June 19, 2012 – Metgasco fined for failure to comply – Metgasco

<http://www.northernstar.com.au/story/2012/06/19/metgascos-wastewater-fine/>

METGASCO has been fined \$5000 by the State Government for failing to provide information about its plans to dispose of wastewater produced by the coal seam gas extraction process. The fines were revealed on a government web site which listed cases of “non-compliance” with the Mining Act and Petroleum (Onshore) Act. A COAL seam gas company has disposed of more than a million litres of

dirty water at a sewage treatment plant in northern NSW, breaching the plant's licence conditions, the NSW Environment Protection Authority says.

June 12, 2012 – Coal seam effluent salts sewerage – Metgasco

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/coal-seam-effluent-salts-sewerage-20120611-2060v.html#ixzz1xWyBfdZU>

May 28, 2012 - Methane Migration Affects 5 km stretch of Condamine River – Origin

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-05-30/claim-csg-river-leak-caught-on-video/4041298>

Gas is bubbling to the surface on a five-kilometre stretch of the Condamine River near Chinchilla on the Western Downs. The Queensland Government's LNG Enforcement Unit says it is investigating the claims. Mr Hutton says while he cannot rule out naturally occurring methane, the incident is unprecedented. "The landowners say they've never seen this happen before," he said. "It's along quite a lengthy stretch of the river – there's very strong bubbles coming to the surface. "This is a new phenomenon for this section of the river." Mr Hutton says the river is close to CSG wells operated by Origin Energy.

May 12, 2012 – Gas leak forces suspension at QGC rig at Surat Basin – QGC

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/business/gas-leak-forces-suspension-at-queensland-gascompany-rig-at-surat-basin/story-fn7kjcme-1226347929202>

Gas leak forces suspension at Queensland Gas Company rig at Surat Basin-QGC. THE Queensland Gas Company has suspended operations at one of its drilling rigs on the western Darling Downs after detecting a gas leak. A 150-metre exclusion zone was established around the Surat Basin rig as a precaution late on Saturday night. The incident occurred during drilling of the Argyle 162 well, about 25km southwest of Chinchilla, on a QGC-owned property.

April 28, 2012 – CSG company spills fluid into river – QGC

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/water-issues/csg-company-spills-fluid-into-river-20120428-1xr4k.html>

Drilling fluid linked to a CSG project has leaked into a Queensland river that is part of the Murray-Darling Basin. The leak occurred when contractors for coal seam gas company QGC were drilling to run a pipeline underneath the Condamine River in Queensland's southwest.

Apr 4, 2012 - Queensland reveals Condamine water quality report

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-11-24/chinchilla-condamine-water-quality-report/3677838>

The Queensland Government has confirmed the toxicity of coal seam gas water to aquatic organisms is assessed against environmental standards after it is released into rivers and not prior to discharge. This approach appears to stand at odds with the approach taken by the Queensland coordinator-general in his approach to contaminant guidelines when he approved the Australia Pacific Liquid Natural Gas (APLNG) project. Environmental protection standards are set through ANZECC aquatic ecosystem guidelines. In June 2010, the Queensland Government granted an environmental approval allowing APLNG to discharge the equivalent of eight Olympic swimming pools of treated coal seam gas water per day into the Condamine River south of Chinchilla. The water comes from the company's desalination plant on the Walloons gasfield, which is part of Origin Energy and ConocoPhillips' \$35 billion coal seam gas and liquefied natural gas plant near Gladstone.

February 10, 2012 - Arsenic and lead found in contaminated water leak at coal seam gas drill site – Santos

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/water-issues/arsenic-and-lead-found-in-contaminatedwater-leak-at-coal-seam-gas-drill-site-20120209-1rx7s.html>

FOUR separate leaks of polluted water have now taken place at a coal seam gas drilling site near Narrabri in northern NSW since June, the resources company Santos confirmed. The spills of contaminated water led to the detection last month of toxic heavy metals, including arsenic, lead and chromium, plus traces of petrochemicals in water and earth samples taken in the Pilliga forest area. Tests last year also showed elevated levels of metals and chemicals, though these were initially blamed on the use of chemical fertilisers on farms. The company then conceded that an unreported spill of 10,000 litres of polluted water had taken place in June. But Santos has now reported a series of leaks that occurred since it took over the site from Eastern Star Gas late last year. "There have been three subsequent, smaller leaks of water from coal seams within Eastern Star's Pilliga operations in the weeks immediately following Santos' acquisition of the company," a spokesman said.

February 2012 – APPEA Report: LNG tank gas release – Woodside

[http://www.appea.com.au/images/stories/Safety/71%20 %20lng%20tank%20gas%20release.pdf](http://www.appea.com.au/images/stories/Safety/71%20%20lng%20tank%20gas%20release.pdf)

During the installation of an LNG loading pump a significant amount of hydrocarbon gas was generated and released to the atmosphere when the loading pump at 300C came into contact with the -1620C LNG product within the pump well. The resultant vapour cloud engulfed the work party located on the scaffold above the LNG tank. The scaffold had only one "intended" means of escape which was blocked by the vapour cloud due to the prevailing wind direction. The work group left the scaffold and waited for the gas release to dissipate. After initial contact and subsequent gas release the pump was lowered to normal position. There were no injuries or immediate damage associated with this incident.

January 14, 2012 – Coal-seam gas pollution spill went unreported – Santos

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/coal-seam-gas-pollution-spill-went-unreported/story-fn59niix-1226244002610>

COAL-SEAM gas giant Santos has admitted a company it now owns last year spilled 10,000 l of polluted waste water in the Pilliga State Forest, in northern NSW, potentially contaminating 1.2ha of bushland.

Dec, 2011 – Report – AGL

<http://2011.aglsustainability.com.au/index.html#/76/zoomed>

A total of 53 environmental incidents at AGL operated sites were recorded in AGL's corporate incident reporting systems during FY2011, compared with 15 incidents recorded in FY2010. One of the incidents was rated as having a high potential risk (the overtopping of a dam at the Downlands Facility during the Queensland floods in December 2010). Other incidents included minor spills and leaks, administrative non-compliances and noncompliant air emissions. In addition to environmental incidents at AGL operated sites, during FY2011, a number of incidents occurred at the AGL-Arrow Energy Moranbah Gas Project joint venture, where Arrow Energy is the operator. Further information can be found in the 2011 Annual Report available at <http://2011annualreport.agk.com.au>

Dec, 2011 – Qld Gov. CSG (6 monthly) Compliance Report

<http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/management/coal-seam-gas/pdf/csg-compliance-report-jan.pdf>

The Queensland government reported that in only the first six months of 2011 there were forty five CSG compliance related incidents, including twenty-three spills of CSG water during operations, four uncontrolled discharges of CSG water, three exceedances of discharge limits, three overflows of storage ponds, and other incidents relating to vegetation clearing and BTEX contamination (see "Drilling Down – link on below in Other Information)

October 2011 – APPEA Report: LNG Pressure Vacuum breaker loss of containment – gas release

http://www.appea.com.au/images/stories/Policy_-_Safety_and_Health/incident_alerts/60_-_Pressure_Vacuum_breaker_loss_of_containment.pdf

A gas cloud was observed emanating from the hydrocarbon Pressure Vacuum (PV) breaker onboard a GPSO. The PV breaker released at a lower pressure than the expected design pressure, resulting in the release of about 28,000kg of hydrocarbon gas. The cargo tanks took approximately 1.5 hours to depressurise via the PV breaker.

September 17, 2011 – Academics warn of looming seam-gas ‘mess’

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/academics-warn-of-looming-seam-gasmess/story-fn59niix-1226139356296>

“Dr Mudd said one of his students had recently conducted such a study of a CSG well, and found while one nearby water bore was unaffected by the operations another 5km away suffered a “very major impact”. “If a an undergraduate student can do that in three weeks of full-time work why the hell hasn’t the government done that?” he said. A LEADING resource economist has called for restrictions on the booming coal-seam gas industry until proper water quality and technology monitoring systems can be implemented.

September 14 , 2011 – QLD gas well leaking – QGC

Gas is leaking from a five-centimetre crack in a pipe on a Queensland coal seam gas development. Queensland Gas Company senior vice-president Jim Knudsen said the leak was not dangerous and an exclusion zone had been set up while workers fixed the problem. The pipe was damaged on Monday near the well head at QGC’s Berwyndale South gas field.

September 13, 2011 – Crews work to fix leaking gas well – QGC

<http://www.thechronicle.com.au/story/2011/09/13/crews-work-fix-leaking-gas-welltoowoomba/>

A SAFETY zone has been established around a Darling Downs gas well which has been leaking since last night.

September 13, 2011 - Gas mine leaking in southern Queensland – QGC

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/gas-mine-leaking-in-southern-queensland-20110913-1k7do.html#ixzz1Y9QBEyFG>

August 22, 2011 – Santos fined over outback gas blast – Santos (Ethane- not CSG but worth noting as it was a lack of maintenance which caused this issue)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-08-22/santos-fined-moomba-explosion/2850122>

Oil and gas producer Santos has been fined for breaching workplace safety laws over an explosion at its Moomba natural gas plant in South Australia.

August 10, 2011 - NSW Gov’t issues AGL with a formal warning after coal seam gas well blow-out – AGL

<http://www.kateausburn.com/2011/08/10/nsw-govt-issues-agl-with-a-formal-warning-after-coal-seam-gas-well-blow-out/>

The NSW Government has issued AGL with an official warning following an incident during maintenance of a coal seam gas well at a site in Camden on 17 May 2011.

August 10, 2011 - AGL warned over coal seam well leak – AGL

<http://www.northernstar.com.au/story/2011/08/10/agl-warned-over-coal-seam-well-leak/>

ENERGY firm AGL has been formally warned by the NSW government after a leak at one of its coal seam gas wells in southwest Sydney.

August 3, 2011 - Coal seam damage to water inevitable – APPEA

<http://www.eco-business.com/news/coal-seam-damage-to-water-inevitable/>

“Coal seam damage to water table inevitable” APPEA

July 21, 2011 – Leaking, bubbling coal seam gas well – Pilliga State Forest NSW -Santos

Video from the Pilliga: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qf5Rj3vfQPc>

June 21, 2011 – Arrow fined \$40,000 for Breach – Arrow & QGC

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/ipad/arrow-hit-with-40000-fine-for-breach/story-fn6ck2gb-1226078776279>

ARROW Energy has been hit with a \$40,000 fine – Queensland’s biggest penalty to date against a coal seam gas company - for five breaches of the petroleum and gas laws at the Daandine Homestead property near Dalby. The fine does not include any penalty for the blowout of Arrow’s well on the same property, which is still under investigation by the State Government. Arrow was fined in this instance over breaching access laws that state a landowner must be given 10 days’ notice before a company can enter private property. Another breach related to a technical issue over a pipeline. The fines followed more than a year of controversy for the emerging industry. Rival company Queensland Gas was also fined almost \$20,000 in April for illegally clearing trees at its project near Tara.

June 13, 2011 - Gas chief admits company at fault – Metgasco

<http://www.northernstar.com.au/news/gas-chief-admits-company-at-fault-over-storage->

pon/875842/

METGASCO CEO Peter Henderson has conceded the gas company was remiss in not cleaning up two ponds after drilling at a site at Dyraaba was abandoned.

June 7, 2011 – Coal seam gas leaks posed fire threat: report

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/video/2011/06/07/3238112.htm?site=southqld>

A new report has revealed five coal seam gas wells in Queensland could have ignited after they developed leaks.

June 5, 2011 - Coal Seam Gas Pond Toxic water storage leaking and overflowing -Metgasco

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smP9tL_e3U8 – Dobie's Bight Rd

May 23, 2011 – Qld farmer worried about gas leak on land – Arrow

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/qld-farmer-worried-about-gas-leak-on-land-20110523-1f063.html>

Mr O'Connor told AAP it was the fourth gas incident on his property in two years. "We've had three gas leaks prior to this but none as big as this," he said. "The other incidents didn't come from the wells. One was from a leaking pipe." Mr O'Connor has 12 wells on his 1847-hectare property after Arrow Energy gained access in 2006.

May 23, 2011 – Queensland coal seam gas leak plugged – Arrow

http://mines.industry.qld.gov.au/assets/mines-safety-health/Safety_Alert_Well_48.pdf

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/queensland-coal-seam-gas-well-blows-itstop/story-e6frg6nf-1226061049085>

A LEAKING coal seam gas well west of Brisbane has been plugged. The gas well, west of Dalby, began leaking yesterday while Arrow Energy, the company which operates the well, was preparing it for gas production

You will never be able to convince the residents of the Northern Rivers that CSG is safe for our area. It simply isn't. There is no gas shortage we have enough Gas reserves in Bass strait for the next 500 years. This gas is only wanted to sell off shore to line the pockets of the multinational mining companies. Enough is Enough.

PLEASE PROTECT THE NORTHERN RIVERS FROM CSG MINING. Our water & land is our future.

Desley Banks

125 Gordon Rd sth

Koonorigan 2480

Ph 66899499

Mining and Industry Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

RE: Camden Gas Project Stage 3 Project Application 09_0048

Dear Sir / Madam,

Imagine for a moment that your body is Planet Earth, an organism that has certain requirements to maintain its life and has a Mother, in this case Nature. Not far from the truth really, is it? ***Would you like millions of minute needles pushed just under the surface of your skin (thinking globally now), so that the micro organisms living on your skin can get their energy requirements?*** I didn't think so. And yes I am practicing and promoting that humans reduce their energy requirements so as not to be a burden on the environment. If Richard Branson's space shuttle can operate on laughing gas and recycled rubber why don't we look for alternatives like that?

With Mother Nature and her son Planet Earth hosting a party to over 7 billion people we need to treat our hosts with respect. If we don't, we'll be kicked out. Only problem is, ***we have nowhere else to go*** so we'd better start appreciating what they're providing and stop draining them of resources. ***I thus object to AGL's project application 09_0048 and request that the PAC recommend the project be refused!*** Actually, the equation I'd like to see everyone working on is "Human consumption + waste output – Resources replaced = Zero environmental impact".

I have added under my signature block the standard letter as proposed by the Scenic Hills Association and support all points made therein. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you and kind regards,

PS Here's a thought from that section of the electro-magnetic spectrum that we haven't yet discovered (eg intuition). If this project does go ahead the decision makers can be sure that bad karma will befall them. That is all – have a great day!!

Larissa Zimmerman
Rosemeadow NSW 2560

O412 1800 01

February 2013

Addendum:

The key reasons for my objection are stated below.

I am concerned that CSG mining is a technologically-evolving industry whose impacts have not been independently and scientifically fully researched and remain largely unknown. This view is supported by professional organisations and academics in evidence to the NSW Upper House and Senate Inquiries into Coal Seam Gas Mining in 2011 and by subsequent research here and

overseas. We have had to rely on the industry for much of our information when the industry has a vested interest in the outcome. AGL is no different. It claims that the Camden Gas Project has been safely operating for 10 years. Yet we understand that impacts on groundwater and air quality have not been adequately monitored, and while AGL has been operating under an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL No. 12003), it has been allowed to self-monitor its compliance, self-investigate incidents and self-report such that we do not know what true impacts it may have had. Third party consultants and external laboratories that are engaged and paid for by the industry are not *independent*. Nor is any funded or co-funded research by the CSG mining industry. These lessons should have been learnt with asbestos in Australia and with 'Big Tobacco' in the USA. The National Water Commission in its Position Statement (3rd December 2010) said that impacts may emerge over a long time period. I am deeply concerned that the costs of unforeseen problems will be borne by the community and taxpayers after AGL is long gone from the area. This is grossly irresponsible.

Doctors for the Environment Australia claims that health impacts from CSG mining have not been assessed. Preliminary research from Queensland (e.g. by Southern Cross University in Tara) and overseas is deeply concerning, especially where fracking has been used. As at December 2011, 85% of the production wells in the Camden Gas Project had been fracked (evidence from the NSW Upper House Inquiry) with inadequate monitoring of its impacts on water in particular. AGL claims that the use of horizontal wells in the proposed Stage 3 will reduce the need for fracking, but it seems that this is not entirely true since it has reserved the right to frack these wells in the future if/when the technology becomes available. The size of the proposed well clusters and any fracking of horizontal wells are both new and untested here. It will therefore be entirely experimental with unknown outcomes on health and property including the possibility of subsidence under so many urban properties.

I am also concerned about evidence from Queensland and overseas on air quality and the cumulative impact of AGL's expansion into an area that already experiences incidents of unacceptable levels of air pollution (ozone and fine particles) associated with respiratory problems (NSW Environmental Protection Authority). AGL's past performance gives no confidence that it has not already contributed to this or that it can be managed in the future, having admitted in August this year that it had not conducted continuous air monitoring at its Rosalind Park Gas Treatment Plant for three years in breach of its EPL No.12003.

Allowing CSG mining in areas that are not zoned for heavy industry undermines zoning controls and confidence in the planning process, and creates severe land use conflicts, economic instability and inequity. It will disrupt religious communities whose vocations have so far been protected by the Scenic Hills zoning; it will place undue burden on small rural allotments whose capacity to cope is severely reduced by size (thereby threatening the survival of the entire historic Scenic Hills), and it is unsightly and unsafe in urban areas with a potential escalation in CSG mining incidents and accidents associated with the more intense urban activity (traffic, people etc.), the presence of children, and potential for vandalism. The consequent impact on land and house values for existing land and home owners may be devastating. For many people the home is their largest asset and is often leveraged to support small business. Any devaluation by bank assessors may destroy livelihoods and life savings.

I do not believe that the NSW Government's new regulations for CSG mining will ensure its safe operation here. As the only commercially producing CSG field in NSW, the Camden Gas Project has already been operating under consent conditions. Yet the NSW Government has not been able to ensure compliance, as evidenced by on-going breaches by AGL of its licence conditions, and the discovery of incidents that might not have been reported were it not for community vigilance, such as the Sugarloaf well incident in May 2011 in Menangle that allowed well contents to drift over Sydney's water channel and to nearby Glen Alpine houses.

The proposal poses risks to Sydney's water in general and to the South West in particular that have not been adequately assessed. While AGL claims that the *geology of the Sydney Basin is well known*, AGL's rationale for the constant modification of prior stages of the Camden Gas Project seems to contradict this, as does its admission to the Scenic Hills Association that it does not know where the aquifers here run to but *probably Sydney Harbour*. Potential impacts on Sydney Harbour, on the nearby Sydney Water Catchment, and AGL's proposal to run its gas gathering pipeline

along Sydney's Upper Canal on public land are unacceptable risks to Sydney's water, and are an abuse of public property for the benefit of private investors.

AGL will only ever produce about 5% of NSW's gas from the Camden Gas Project according to evidence it gave under oath at the NSW Upper House Inquiry. This does not justify the risks and potential costs to the community, particularly since 150,000+ people already live and work in the immediate affected area, and this is in Sydney's south west growth corridor. It is socially, environmentally and economically unjustified, and has no social licence to operate here. I acknowledge that my name will appear on my submission when publicly exhibited.

Yours sincerely

Larissa Zimmerman
Rosemeadow NSW 2560

O412 1800 01

February 2013

srlup - CSG exclusion zones

From: lola rus-hartland <rushartland@yahoo.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 7:37 PM
Subject: CSG exclusion zones

To Whom it may concern

It concerns ME and every one who lives in the Wollombi Valley!
However, we have not been taken into account when the draft policy to implement CSG exclusion zones was drafted...

The proposed changes provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters.

However, they do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow council's to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining.

Would you please be so kind to consider the above and take the following steps to increase protection of our valley:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you, Lola Rus-Hartland, Wollombi

srlup - submission re CSG Exclusion Zones in the MIning SEPP

From: Susie Russell <susierussell2k8@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 7:34 PM
Subject: submission re CSG Exclusion Zones in the MIning SEPP

Submission re CSG Exclusion Zones

The CSG Mining Exclusion Zones don't go far enough. We know from information coming in from all over the world that CSG activity is contaminating groundwater. Groundwater connectivity is something we know little about. The connections between aquifers are seldom mapped and the mining process itself can cause connectivity. We also know that the cement casings that sheath the drill holes has a high failure rate. With most of them failing within a few decades. So any so-called protection from contamination by the bore casing is a fiction and thus every drill site has a high likelihood of facilitating vertical contamination through different depths of groundwater sources.

Given this, buffer zones measured above the ground ie from towns are wholly inadequate (more like criminally negligent).

While it is important to include buffers from residents, schools, food-production properties etc, due to the incompatibility of mining and these other activities. These buffers don't protect our water which is the same as saying they don't protect our life and the life of the ecological systems on which our life depends.

Clearly there is no place for CSG activity in any catchment that anyone is using for drinking water. But that said, animals and plants depend on catchments too, so a poisoned water supply is not just about humans.

Areas that are largely native vegetation and have important environmental values should also be excluded. Clearing is not appropriate in these areas, that is why they are either protected as Conservation Areas, designated as forests where environmental values are meant to be protected even if timber is to be extracted, publicly owned as crown lands that provide connectivity for wildlife, or recognised under the Native Vegetation Act as having important conservation values and are thus not allowed to be cleared.

If a farmer can't clear their native vegetation... then a miner shouldn't be allowed to either.

While much of the public debate has centred around CSG it is clear that other forms of unconventional gas extraction are equally dangerous and should also be included in the SEPP. Coal too should be included. If the Government can stop wind turbines from being put within 2km of a house then coal mines and drilling rigs should be kept at an even greater distance.

I am concerned that despite promises, the NSW Government is removing the power of local communities, via their elected local councils, to determine whether they want their shire area to be destroyed by mining. Many local councils have done excellent work identifying areas where certain developments should not be allowed. They should be able to identify areas where mining is also not allowed.

Finally I ask that the SEPP amendments should apply to all mining activities where mining has not yet begun.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Russell
330 Glenwarrin Rd
Elands, 2429

srlup - Mining SEPP Amendments

From: "John & Cheryl McKee" <mckeejc@dodo.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 7:24 PM
Subject: Mining SEPP Amendments

Australia WAS a fair country but the fast buck is quickly taking over.

Is it fair that someone 2 km on the edge of town is protected but country property homes are not? Fair is all residential dwellings.

Please consider:

- SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2 km buffer around all residential dwellings
- The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
- the provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas
- The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas
- The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not satisfied their conditions of approval and have not commenced operations.

John and Cheryl McKee
5 Lorna Rae Avenue
MOREE NSW 2400

594 Glen Road
Craven 2422

11 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: *Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.*

As a resident of the Gloucester District who is directly affected by both Yancoal's Stratford Coal Mine and AGL's proposed Gloucester CSG Project I wish to make a submission with reference to the above.

The imposition of a 2 km protection zone for urban communities is a positive step, but this has not been provided for this area. We need the same protection for our health and welfare as for any other community. However, even this is not sufficient to protect our water from the proven risks of CSG extraction, nor to protect agricultural land, native animal habitat and scenic tourist attractions.

The Deputy Premier admitted on a recent 7:30 program that he wouldn't want a CSG well near his place because (1) it will reduce his property value and (2) there is always the potential for something to go wrong. These are both valid reasons already experienced here. If the Deputy Premier doesn't want it near his home, neither do the people of the Gloucester Valley.

We need much tighter control of mining and CSG extraction. Above all we need a proper independent study of the effects of economic dependence on commodities at the expense of all other industries, especially in the long term. We also need a proper independent study of the health costs to the economy due to mining activities.

I suggest that it is time to consider the well being of Australians and Australia rather than the protection of directors and shareholders of prosperous extraction companies.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia McCalden

02 6558 8273

srlup - Submission re changes to Mining and Coal Seam Gas SEPP for exclusion zones

From: Maules Creek <upthecreek2382@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 7:07 PM
Subject: Submission re changes to Mining and Coal Seam Gas SEPP for exclusion zones

Dear Sir / Madam;

I would like to see the following changes made to the SEPP ammendments;

- Take out the ability for councils to “opt out” of the exclusion zones. Councils are vulnerable to corruption and pressure from powerful mining interests. The Narrabri council is particularly vulnerable due to the infiltration of Santos into the region.
- Identify further industry clusters such as cotton, grain, etc
- Extend a 2 km buffer zone around critical industry clusters
- The 2 km buffer to apply to all residences including villages and rural residences
- Protect water catchments
- Apply to other forms of unconventional gas, such as tight sands and shale gas, which pose similar risks as coal seam gas.
- Ensure rigorous baseline studies for health, air quality (methane, btex) and water quality are prepared prior to any exploration

Kind Regards

Phil Laird
MCCC

--

Maules Creek Community Council Inc
www.maulescreek.org
www.facebook.com/maulescreek
@MaulesCreek

From: "Tony Tate" <tact@exemail.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 7:07 pm
Subject: CSG Sepp Submission
Attachments: AGL Gas wells over Rocky Hill mine site.pdf

Anthony & Carol Tate

13 Mahogany Drive

Gloucester

NSW 2422

11th April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are residents of Avon River Estate (1 of several small estates just south of Gloucester) which is approx. 1.5 to 2 Klm's from where we live:- PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT. We are members of GRIP (Gloucester Residents In Partnership). We welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

Some of our comments and concerns on the SEPP draft amendment are as follows.

1. We are of the opinion that there has not been enough investigation into public health so close to these mine sites, e.g. the AIR, WATER & NOISE emissions that may be detrimental to our health.
2. We also feel we are being treated as 2nd class citizens after seeing a recent report which goes

something like:- " The Deputy Premier admitted on a recent 7:30 program said that he wouldn't want a CSG well near his place because (1) it will reduce his property value and (2) there is always the potential for something to go wrong". If the Deputy Premier doesn't want it near his home, neither do WE the people of the Gloucester Valley.

Yours sincerely,

A.C. & C.E.Tate

Anthony C. Tate & Carol E.Tate

srlup - Submission to Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones.

From: shane <slwhite@skymesh.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 6:41 PM
Subject: Submission to Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones.

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure

I am writing to you regarding the current consideration of the **Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones**. I would like to express my concern over the inadequacy of the current proposed exclusions and impress on you the important recommendation that the entire Northern Rivers region of NSW be included in the Coal Seam Gas exclusion zones currently under consideration for the following reasons:

Industry related exclusions

The proposed viticulture and equine industry exclusions are grossly inadequate and irrelevant and ignore other unique and important industries in the Northern Rivers region. The region supports a diverse, sustainable and extensive agricultural industry including specialist industries such as organic farming and permaculture which provide unique and specialised employment opportunities. The region is important for tourism and associated employment and economy which rely on the natural environment and unique physical and cultural landscape. Again, a sustainable, long-term industry. These important industries are vital to the economy and social well-being of the region and would be made unviable by the impacts of coal seam gas mining and associated infrastructure and activities.

Environmental considerations

The current proposed exclusions ignore important ecological ecosystems. The region supports unique and high value ecological systems which have a crucial role in supporting national biodiversity and providing important ecosystem services including clean water and economic benefits such as ecotourism and commercial fishing.

Residential exclusions

Excluding residentially zoned areas ignores the many thousands of residents who live in rural areas, smaller towns, villages and Indigenous communities spread right throughout the region. All these people are impacted equally, if not more than, people who live in 'residential areas' by the noise, visual, health and social impacts of coal seam gas mining and associated activities. Rural residents have chosen to live in these areas and sacrifice the cheapness and convenience of 'living in town' for the peace and quiet that rural living offers. It is outrageous to think that it is ok to industrialise these areas with the noise, traffic, lights and infrastructure associated with CSG. In the case of Indigenous residents, there is a cultural obligation to 'live on country' and deep cultural connections and responsibilities to country which will be entirely undermined and destroyed by CSG activities.

Community and social considerations

The Northern Rivers region has a unique and cherished community focus and a strong social structure based around a shared appreciation for the current social, cultural, economic and environmental values of the region. Over 80% of residents in the Northern Rivers have strongly and clearly demonstrated that they are opposed to Coal Seam Gas mining and the impacts that they know will be incurred to their peaceful lifestyles and productive and scenic landscapes. Such a high rate of opposition to CSG within this cohesive community warrants exclusion of this unwelcome industry throughout the Northern Rivers region.

Yours sincerely

Laura White
195 Moonem-New Italy Rd
Bungawalbin NSW 2480



The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

9-4-13

EAAA¹ Comments on the State Environment Planning Policy [SEPP]

1. The O'Farrell Governments proposed 2 kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas, horse studs and vineyards is welcomed, however it does not cover impacts of coal seam gas development in NSW on water catchment areas, aquifers, prime agricultural land, state conservation areas and high conservation value land. These impacts need to be researched.
2. The coal seam gas industry has not been proven to be a safe and reliable industry. Coal seam gas mining has been shown to compromise the safety of our drinking water. Huge volumes extracted from the coal seam can lead to a major depletion of connected aquifers. This depletion affects drinking water, agriculture, horticulture, and the ability to produce clean green food for our communities.

¹ Ecological Agriculture Australia Association

For the advancement of soil, farming, food & community

Ecological Agriculture Australia Association [EAAA] is a diverse community of people and organizations who share the belief that the world urgently needs to develop bio diverse landscapes, biologically enriched soil, healthy food, and vibrant communities through ecologically, holistic and ethically processes

To protect our critical water resources the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority [SCA] water catchment areas, SCA special areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore there is no body of evidence to prove that this industry is safe.

3. Fracking involves potentially toxic chemicals and the contamination of aquifers. Moreover, there are disposal issues regarding big volumes of saline water pumped back into the surface. Research from The United States Environmental Protection Agency has shown methane contamination as a result of gas production and fracking practices. In American communities where coal seam fracking has occurred water supplies have been contaminated, and drinking water has had to be trucked into supply households. The chemicals used in the fracking process have proven to be carcinogenic and injurious to health.
4. Methane is known to be many times more potent than carbon dioxide as a green house gas. Wherever fracking has been practised methane has been found to escape into the atmosphere. In addition the leaking of methane gas from wells is highly explosive and dangerous. There are many documented instances of methane leaking out of domestic taps. Over 50% of wells tested in Queensland leak methane. CSM wells do sometimes catch fire and explode. CSM wells and pipelines are fire hazards.
5. A Queensland court has shut down an experimental underground coal gasification project by Cougar Energy on the Darling Downs after dangerous chemicals were found in underground water supplies. Carcinogenic chemicals were found in bore water. Carcinogenic chemicals have been detected in 5 water bores around the Queensland town of Dalby.
- 6 There is growing concern and mounting evidence about damage done to aquifers which cannot be repaired. Mr Dunn, a spokesperson for Australian Petroleum Producers and Explorations Association, told a meeting in Sydney that damage to aquifers was inevitable and unavoidable. In this driest of continents aquifers are our lifeblood. Anything that threatens water security must be banned.
7. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers Region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid inconsistency that leaves part of the state at risk.

We submit that the activities of the coal seam gas industry must be ceased until the nations resources can be properly safeguarded.

The integrity and preservation of our aquifers goes beyond the realm of individual states. It is a matter of national importance. The Commonwealth of Australia needs by legislation to become actively involved here. This raises questions of national security involving the safety of our water supply, and our capacity to feed ourselves from our prime agricultural land. The Great Artesian basin is a national resource and part of a wider ecological system. It is a resource of National importance and lies under 22% of Australia. It is the only reliable source of water in semi-arid areas.

The coal seam gas mining proposed for the Liverpool Plains, Hunter Valley, St Peters, Warragamba Dam catchment, Southern Highlands and other parts of the State will cause considerable environmental damage, pollution of aquifers and loss of prime agricultural land.

The damage to aquifers, agricultural land, and the contamination and depletion of the Great Artesian Basin will be an ecological disaster, which will affect generations to come. The extraction of coal seam gas is an environmental calamity. To contemplate fracking around Warragamba Dam the water supply for the city of Sydney, is environmental vandalism beyond description.

The development of the coal seam gas industry in Australia has been done by stealth, and a national resource has been traded without the awareness of the communities involved, all for self serving interest without regard to the constituencies they were meant to be representing. The role of Government is to protect communities not the mining and gas industry's balance sheet.

The State Government should declare a moratorium on fracking to coal seam gas extraction indefinitely until it can be proven that this industry is safe and does not destroy our national resources. There needs to be legislation enacted making damage to aquifers an offence to anyone causing or facilitating such damage. That includes politicians. At present there are no effective regulations in place regarding this industry, which has the capacity to destroy the non-renewable resources of Australia.

Given the risks to water resources and public from CSG, the Government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.

The preservation of our aquifers is a matter of national importance as is the issue of food production and security. We call on the States & the Commonwealth of Australia to enact legislation that protects our aquifers, health and our prime agricultural land.

Australia, it's worth fighting for.

Yours Faithfully

Maxine Blackburn
Meg Hoskin
Ethics & Values Pillar
Ecological Agriculture Australia Association
maxine@blackburn.id.au mob: 0414 874 729

Kerry Cochrane
President, Ecological Agriculture Australia Association
35 kite St, Orange, 2800
president@ecoag.org.au mob: 0402 008 100

srlup - COAL SEAM GAS

From: "John Nicholson" <maajkn@hunterlink.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 5:55 PM
Subject: COAL SEAM GAS
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

John and Margaret Nicholson
3 Phascogale Crescent
Barrington NSW 2422

11th April

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Dear Sir/Madam

We are residents of Barrington NSW, 6 kilometres from Gloucester, and have emailed many times over the past six to eight months on the subject of coal seam gas and a proposed coal mine to the Premier, Mr Hazzard, Mr Hartcher and our local member, Mr Souris.

The possible effects of pollution of the atmosphere by coal seam gas is only one of our concerns. We feel there is a distinct danger of damage to groundwater by the extraction of massive amounts of water during the development of a CSG well. In addition, this contaminated water has to be held somewhere and if it is accidentally released, as we believe has happened elsewhere, in the case of the Gloucester/Avon valley it could get into our river systems which is the source of our drinking water as well as for livestock.

When in Opposition Premier O'Farrell gave a guarantee that mining would not occur in water catchment areas and we expect that to apply in our valley.

The 2 kilometre buffer zone is a start and should also apply to Gloucester area but this does not necessarily protect our water.

We would like the SEPP to take into account the need to protect our whole environment. We are in our 80s and are concerned for the future of our grand children and great grand children.

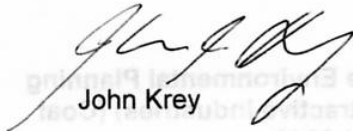
Yours faithfully

John and Margaret Nicholson

With various threats from open cut mining and CSG extraction, the area of the Hunter Valley in which I live deserves full and proper consideration in this matter to allow a return to a confident long term future for residents and for industries that are sustainable and compatible with the environment such as viticulture, food production etc.

I look forward to hearing the outcomes for the proposed amendments and trust that full consideration will be given to community input to this very important planning matter.

Yours sincerely,



John Krey



John Krey

98 Noses Peak
Road
BULGA NSW 2330

Phone 02 6574 5376
Mobile 0419 247 682
E-mail johnkrey@bigpond.com

11 April 2013

The Director, Strategic Planning Policy
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Email: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

**Comment on the Draft Amendment to the State Environmental Planning
Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal
Seam Gas exclusion Zones) 2013**

I am a resident of Bulga in the Hunter Valley and have been most concerned with the threat of Coal Seam Gas exploration and extraction in this area. The plans by companies such as AGL to transform this very beautiful part of the Hunter into a gas field is unacceptable to me.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft and I commend the Department of Planning & Infrastructure on the proposed amendments.

My submission is in response to the current draft on public exhibition being the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas exclusion Zones) 2013

Generally, I welcome the approach this proposed amendment proposes and comment as follows:

- I understand the Critical Industry Cluster Land Map is to be reviewed after the exhibition period concludes. This places substantial uncertainty over the proposed amendment and I recommend that the current Map be accepted and included in its current form without alteration.
- Of extreme concern are the clauses 9A(2) and (3) with proposal that the Local Council can override the proposed SEPP and excise land from the SEPP and allow the extraction of Coal Seam Gas. This is unacceptable and must be removed from the proposed amendment. The CSG Exclusion Zone must be clear and defined in the SEPP and not subject to further alteration by local government.
- I commend the proposed 2 kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas and critical industry clusters.

srlup - submission relating to proposed coal seam gas regulations

From: "John Watts" <john-watts1@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 5:51 PM
Subject: submission relating to proposed coal seam gas regulations
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <pffice@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

11April 2013

To: The Director Strategic Regional Policy,
Dept of Planning and Infrastructure,

This submission is from John and Sue Watts of 7 Wright Close,
Gloucester NSW 2422
Ph 02 6558 9769
0438346544

We are residents of Gloucester which is presently subject to an approval for AGL to extract coal seam gas on the south of the town. We welcome the fact that some changes to the conditions relating to CSG are being considered however in our opinion they do not go far enough and will not impact upon what is presently approved for Gloucester.

The changes should be such that drilling will be prohibited within 2 km of any residential area around Gloucester. It is quite unconscionable that drilling will not be permitted around the suburbs to the west of Sydney but will be permitted close to Gloucester residential areas.

Before any gas mining is permitted there should be a full and detailed study of the impacts of such mining on the health of humans and on the environment, particularly water. Gloucester is a healthy area at present and it would be tragic if such mining damaged the health of its residents and damaged the beautiful environment. We note that Mr Stoner has made comments about not wanting to live near CSG mining activity. We agree with him.

If mining is allowed to go ahead it would only be fair to compensate everyone who is adversely affected. Some friends of ours have seen their property valued plummet and as things stand they will get no compensation.

Our comments also apply to coal mining operations.

Thank you

John and Sue Watts

srlup - SEPP legislation

From: "Linda Lowton" <lindal38@optusnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 5:39 PM
Subject: SEPP legislation

Submission regarding the SEPP amendments and the CSG Exclusion Zones

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas (Gloucester had always been classed as Environmentally Sensitive).
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation i.e. AGL Gloucester Project Stage 1.

In addition:

We would like to make the point that the Deputy Premier admitted on a recent 7:30 program that he wouldn't want a CSG well near his place because (1) it will reduce his property value and (2) there is always the potential for something to go wrong. If the Deputy Premier doesn't want it near his home, neither do the people of the Gloucester Valley which is where we live.

We also strongly support the submission being made by Barrington, Gloucester, Stroud Preservation Society (BGSP).

Linda Lowton

Paul Dawson

657 Bucketts Road

67 Hume Street

GLOUCESTER NSW 2422

GLOUCESTER NSW 2422

srlup - COAL SEAM GAS IN THE GLOUCESTER VALLEY

From: "jane stevenson" <janestevenson6@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 5:31 PM
Subject: COAL SEAM GAS IN THE GLOUCESTER VALLEY
CC: "jane Stevenson" <janestevenson6@bigpond.com>

I wish to register my objection to the presence of coal seam gas wells in the Gloucester valley. AGL, the developer of the proposed wells, downplays the effect the (eventual) 330 wells will have on our landscape. The effect will be one of great damage to our visual and physical environment the wells themselves are unsightly, obviously industrial in appearance and totally out of keeping with the rural lands in which they will be set. OF EVEN GREATER IMPACT will be the effect of the numerous service roads that will disturb the surface of the land leading to dust being blown up during windy weather, leading to erosion from rain, and leading directly to loss of pasture land on which we currently graze our livestock.

Coal and coal seam gas are now obsolete ... the technology is there to replace coal and coal seam gas with other environmentally friendly sources of energy. The coal companies and the coal seam gas companies are trying desperately to get the resources out of the ground as quickly as possible, not only because they have already invested millions of dollars in 'product' that is still under the ground and they want their money back, but also because they know that global warming will eventually cause their coal and coal seam gas industries to be shut down and banned from operation.

I do not want the beautiful tourist destination that is the Gloucester Valley to be damaged by coal and coal seam gas operations, eventually to be abandoned once the resources are exhausted. If we allow that to happen we have reneged on our obligation to future generations to leave them a valley that is beautiful, undamaged, and unpolluted.

I object to coal seam gas in the Gloucester Valley, and I object to AGL being given permission to ruin it. Let AGL invest their millions in environmentally friendly energy resources, and let us preserve this valley for those who will live here in the future.

Jane Stevenson
235 Curricabark Rd
Gloucester NSW 2422

srlup - Draft amendment to SEPP (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: "Peter Buchtmann" <p_buchtmann@yahoo.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 5:28 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to SEPP (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The Director
Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure

As a concerned citizen I have for several years followed the progress of the Coal Seam Gas debate with a particular emphasis on the Gloucester Valley situation.

As you may be aware, the geology of this area is very complex, and what may be true in one paddock may be totally different in an adjacent paddock.

Therefore, standard modelling is totally unreliable and the possibility of aquifer contamination if drilling were undertaken is much more likely.

A reliable source of clean water is essential to rural communities. Therefore I support any action to halt exploration and/or extraction of coal seam gas in the Gloucester Valley.

The Deputy Premier is on the record as not wanting exploration and/or extraction near his property; nor do the residents of the Gloucester Valley, for the very same reasons.

I support the actions and submissions made by the BGSPA concerning this draft amendment as a start to halting altogether the potential destruction of the pristine rural environment of the Gloucester Valley. The SEPP amendments should apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction. They should also apply to projects which have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Sincerely

Peter L Buchtmann
25 Benedictine Place
CHERRYBROOK NSW 2126
(02) 9899 3334
p_buchtmann@yahoo.com.au

srlup - SEPP draft amendment

From: [REDACTED]
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>, <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>,
<office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 4:56 PM
Subject: SEPP draft amendment

[REDACTED]

The Director Strategic Regional Planning
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
Sydney 2001

11th April 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

We live in the Lower Hunter, between the villages of Wollombi and Laguna which are approximately 8.5km apart. The line of road between the villages is historic as it marks the trail of Australia's early explorers.

We farm our land, growing fine beef cattle. Our only source of watering cattle is the Wollombi Brook, which originates in the Watagan Hills close by. The Brook flows into the Hunter River.

We have estimated that there are 25 properties around the immediate area being run as beef cattle enterprises, 8 Vineyards and quite a number growing olives. Our water is vital and we only have the one source coming in from the Watagan Range. We just cannot risk the health and devaluation of our properties due to permanent damage to the water table and our sole water resource by gas exploration in this area.

Therefore the villages of Wollombi and Laguna and the land between should be included in the critical industrial cluster to preserve this beautiful valley.

This area is a tourist mecca with 25 local accommodation venues advertised in this area alone, while there are more locations just outside this zone. These businesses would be greatly disadvantaged and many would have to close.

Cessnock City Council having such a large area of roads to maintain is unable now to provide good roads for rate payers in this area. Additional trucks and drilling rigs would destroy road surfaces and deter the tourist industry.

The amendment should prohibit the development of Coal Seam Gas or other mining in the area defined above, as it fails to address any regulations for emissions from the extraction. The development of air pollution standards that are specific CSG should be provided in the amendment with the monitoring of air pollutants at all CGS fields and their infrastructure.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

We would like our personal details withheld

Denise Gilbert
6 Forbesdale Close
Forbesdale NSW 2422

11 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposed Amendment to the draft SEPP in relation to CSG exclusion zones

I am a resident of Forbesdale, 7 kms south of Gloucester, and my property will overlook Stage 1 of the proposed AGL CSG development, in fact wells are proposed less than 1km from the 30 odd homes in Forbesdale. I am a member of a number of community groups including the Barrington Gloucester Stroud Preservation Alliance (BGSPA) and I strongly support the submissions that groups such as the BGSPA, Lock The Gate Alliance and the Nature Conservation Council will be submitting.

The proposed amendment includes a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas and critical industry clusters. While this is a significant step in the right direction, it fails to fairly treat country residents who live in rural areas or small villages. It also fails to take into account the need for further environmental protections that safeguard our drinking water, our health and our conservation and agricultural lands.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee"¹.

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

I would ask the following:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer zone around all dwellings, wherever they may be. My locality of Forbesdale has over 30 homes and these should be treated the same as bigger towns.
2. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects which have been approved but have not Gloucester AGL project should not be allowed to proceed.

¹ Source: www.australiancoalalliance.com/Information/Woodbury%20Park%20Rally.mov.

3. The proposed amendment does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries. The threat to Forbesdale by open cut coal mining is substantial.
4. The right to veto for local Councils should be removed unless there is an equivalent power for Councils to list new prohibited areas.
5. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
6. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
7. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
8. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
9. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)
Denise Gilbert

1 Ross Road
THE CHANNON 2480 NSW
11th April 2013

The Director
Strategic Regional Policy
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
Email: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir

Re: Proposed Amendments to State Environment Planning Policy Mining (SEPP)

I am writing to argue for changes to the regulations of coal seam gas (CSG) mining in New South Wales that were released by Premier O'Farrell on 19th February 2013.

I believe that the currently drafted and proposed amendments to the SEPP represent inadequate and inappropriate policy and only add to the community's concerns regarding CSG industrialisation of urban and rural land. I am lobbying that the NSW Government reconsider and re-draft the proposed SEPP amendments. I believe that it would be in the best interests of the NSW Government and NSW constituents if the government recognised coal seam gas mining as a potentially dangerous and destructive industrial process, that has no place in areas where people live, work or farm.

Premier O'Farrell, like his counterpart Premier Newman in Qld, needs to declare entire regions out of bounds for CSG mining. If Premier O'Farrell and the NSW Government takes this step, it will be seen both nationally and internationally as forward thinking, in touch with the ever increasing evidence emerging regarding the dangers of this industry and demonstrate a humane concern for the health of people and animals, also ensuring the integrity of the environment into the future. At the very least, CSG mining should be prohibited if any citizen living within 2 km of the proposed developed objected. Citizens would therefore be protected from exposure to the environmental contaminants, loss of land values, degraded lifestyles, and diminished economic prospects that inevitably come with CSG industrialisation.

If the Government does not amend the proposed regulations, it will be evident that a distorted favouritism exists towards mining companies and a lack of genuine concern exists for the wellbeing of citizens. CSG mining is definitely a political draw card, in that citizens are watching for government leaders to lead in an ethical, responsible and realistic way that best supports individuals, communities and the future of the country – free of another tobacco or asbestos debacle. Please reconsider and redraft the regulations relating to CSG mining!

Yours sincerely,
Jennifer Ireland

From: lesley smart <lsmart2000@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 5:33 pm
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environment Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum and Extraction Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Neiland Lesley Smart
16 Jackey Drive
Camden Park NSW 2570
Tel 0400 145420

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Dept of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39 SYDNEY

12 April 2013

Dear Sir

SUBMISSION REGARDING DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (MINING, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES (COAL SEAM GAS EXCLUSION ZONES)2013

To be honest we do not believe that we should have Coal Sam Gas Industry in our area, near our homes, near our rivers, near our water catchments, polluting the air we breathe, polluting the food we eat, destroying our aquifers. We have a beautiful country, Australia the lucky country, why destroy it for coal seam gas.....

The only way to deal with coal seam gas fracking is to call for a total ban.

Hopefully, our politicians can protect our beautiful country, the health of its citizens, the health of our children and future generations. We need more indepth scientific research before allowing this toxic industry to continue.

There is no way that local councils should have the right to exempt an area from the protections that are in the changes to the policy. This would make local councils under incredible political pressure from government and the coal and gas energy companies. And subject to corruption. Every dollar that the coal and gas companies inject into this unproven industry is a toxic dollar. Do not allow the public relations departments of the coal and gas industry to change Australia.

The proposed changes do provide more protection to zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters but it is just not enough. They do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environment areas.

Australias combined identified gas resources total 184 years of gas, at current gas levels. We do not need fracking coal seam gas to sell to other countries.

In regards to the amendments to the submission please see the following points:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include more than 2km buffer around all residents.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed. Local councils should not have the right to exempt an area from the protections. If this is allowed they will be under extreme pressure which could lead to corruption.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food processing lands, water catchments and sensitive environment areas.

4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to ALL FORMS OF unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval and have not yet commenced operation.

We are concerned with regards to our local area too, which is a producing gas field, Who is monitoring our Nepean River Who is monitoring our air quality. Who is monitoring the health of the local people with mining on their properties.

We believe that AGL have consistently had breaches of their Environmental Protection Licence every year since it was issued in 2004.

The Camden Gas Project is the only commercially producing coal seam gas field in NSW. It already operates under strict conditions of consent including an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL No. 12003). Yet there have been breaches of this licence in every year since it was issued in 2004. This demonstrates to us that it doesn't matter how much regulation is placed on this industry, the problem is whether the government can ever ensure compliance.

These are our concerns.

Please take note of our submission for the changes.

Yours faithfully

Neil and Lesley Smart

April 12, 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Re: Proposed amendments to the State Environment Planning Policy.

Whilst the NSW Government has taken on board a few of the concerns of the vast majority of the people of NSW most of whom are totally opposed to the Coal Seam Gas industry all together they need to address a lot more. Particularly as promises made whilst in opposition have not been upheld.

1. While prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG It certainly doesn't go far enough. It should also include all residential areas regardless of size. This policy does not deliver protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting unconventional gas operations, including shale gas and tight gas and the expansion of coal mining on productive agricultural land. Coal mining also threatens water quality and air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP also needs to protect communities and the environment from coal mining.
2. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
3. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
4. The amendment does not offer adequate protection to public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
5. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.

In conclusion, given the concerns of the medical profession, The NSW Farmers Federation, and many other professional groups, the New South Wales Government really needs to take the lead and put a moratorium on all CSG drilling until comprehensive studies into the impacts on human health, both short and long term, and the long term effects on Australia's most precious resource, water, have been carried out.

srlup

From: Marney OBrien <marneyobrien@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 8:43 AM

11th April 2013

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

It is completely unacceptable that the NSW Government acknowledged the risk and concern associated with Coal Seam Gas extraction yet only applied exclusion zones to *some* of its residents and two identified Critical Industry Clusters. The following amendments are not only desired but necessary if you wish to protect *all* NSW residents and the future of food production in this State.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around **all** residential dwellings.
2. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely,

Tim O'Brien
"Dreamlands"
Walgett

srlup - CSG

From: Victoria Hamilton-Russell <msvickiHR@westnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 8:42 AM
Subject: CSG

I wish to register my objections to CSG and consider it madness to allow CSG drilling without adequate long term studies, the long term future for our children and children's children is very uncertain if we allow this to go ahead. In my objections please note the following.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours sincerely Victoria Hamilton-Russell, Macquarie St, Merewether. 2291.

I have to add I am underwhelmed by many choices this current state government is making.

srlup - Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) submission

From: david <heatsonjohn@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 8:40 AM
Subject: Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) submission

Please accept my submission to the review of the Mining SEPP

Revision of this state planning policy should take into account the following:

1. there should be a buffer zone around all land that is zoned residential - this buffer zone should be at least 5kms
2. local councils should have the right to nominate areas within their area that should be fully protected
3. new rules should be implemented so that agricultural land and water catchments are fully protected - areas of environmental significance should also be totally reserved from mining or exploration for mining
4. the changes should apply to ALL types of mining in NSW
5. the changes to the policy should apply to all mining projects that have not yet actually started work

thank you

David Allsop

32 Thornton Street

Fairlight NSW 2094

srlup - CSG Exclusion zones

From: [REDACTED]
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 8:40 AM
Subject: CSG Exclusion zones

Please help to keep our communities healthy and farming and tourism viable businesses in NSW. It is our food security, we are trying to protect.

My suggestions:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

[REDACTED] (please withhold my name from publication)

srlup - Submission on CSG exclusion zones draft policy

From: "angela george" <angelageorge12@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 8:32 AM
Subject: Submission on CSG exclusion zones draft policy

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Submission
Draft Amendment to State Environmental Planning Policy
(Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries)
(Coal seam gas exclusion Zones) 2013

SEPP amendments should include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.

Exclusions should include all food producing areas, and all water catchments, and sensitive environmental zones.

Do not give councils the power to veto.

Amendments should apply to projects where the approval process has not been completed, or where the work has not yet commenced.

Angela George
4/159 Dibbs St East Lismore

From: Gordon Garradd <gordon@gunagulla.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 8:24 am
Subject: Submission on Draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001

I want exclusion zones extended to protect our water catchments from the rapidly expanding mining areas, and it's time to protect regional industry from CSG and coal mining.

The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings, not just those in towns and cities.

The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.

The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Yours faithfully,
Gordon Garradd

srlup - CSG exclusion zones

From: <mccabepc@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 8:22 AM
Subject: CSG exclusion zones

Attention:
The Director of Strategic Regional Policy,
Dept of Planning and Infrastructure.

I am opposed to the Mining SEPP in that it

- 1) Fails adequately protect the long-term interests of our general farming economy
- 2) It is based on contested scientific assessment of risks of aquifer and atmospheric pollution
- 3) It is opposed by at least 75% of the people of NSW.

With thanks for your attention

Paul McCabe
Moree, NSW.

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: "D. Bell" <dwgb@aapt.net.au>

To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Date: 4/12/2013 8:06 AM

Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed amendment to

State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The exclusions listed in this proposed amendment are welcome but do not go far enough. They should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.

The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.

The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Duncan Bell
The Channon
NSW 2480

srlup - Submission coal seam gas exclusion zones

From: AM N <amnwisteria@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 7:50 AM
Subject: Submission coal seam gas exclusion zones

I make the following comments on the draft amendment to the SEPP Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones).

The zone R5 Large Lot Residential is a residential zone in the standard instrument and should be included in the definition of residential zones in the SEPP and therefore all R5 zones are in the exclusion zone.

Councils should not be able to request an area be exempt from the exclusion zone as they do not have adequate knowledge of the issues involved.

Drinking Water Catchments identified in any environmental planning instrument or SEPP (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) should be included in the coal seam gas exclusion zone.

Areas that are not specified in a planning instrument as a drinking water catchment but are important to a drinking water supply should be identified and included in the coal seam gas exclusion zone.

Prime Agricultural land needs to be included in the exclusion zone and not just restricted to a critical industry cluster being excluded.

Kim Menzies

srlup - DRAFT NSW Govt SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

From: Jill Keogh <jilldkeogh@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 7:43 AM
Subject: DRAFT NSW Govt SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

The Director Strategic Planning, NSW.

I request that the following changes be made to the above draft document;-

SEPP amendments be broadened to include a 20 kilometre buffer zone around all residential and shopping centre areas.

. That local councils be empowered to list new prohibited areas.

All food producing and agricultural land, water catchments, and sensitive environmental areas, including National Parks should be excluded from CSG mining operations and exploration.

SEPP amendments should be applied retrospectively to applications that have already been approved, but have not yet fulfilled their conditions of approval.

SEPP amendments be broadened to include all coal mining and unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

Comment. The result of a house- to- house survey in our rural communities of Federal and Goonengerry indicated that 98.5% of residents are opposed to CSG mining,

Yours faithfully,
Jill Keogh
47 Callistemon Drive,
Federal NSW 2480
02) 66 884 558

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Judith Shand
Unit 4
7 Bonventi Close
Tuncurry 2428
11th April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

The City of Sydney is at the centre of a huge natural geological basin in which we have sufficient reserves of coal to serve our needs for the future. We have pristine water ways which through the use of the Warragamba Dam supply our needs for water. We have a supply of natural gas which is piped directly from the Cooper Basin in South Australia. We have sufficient natural gas there to export some of it to overseas markets. We are a lucky country!

It must be clear from recent polls that more than 50% of voters oppose the process of fracking. Fracking involves the use of vast amounts of water so as we live in a state where the scientific community has been sufficiently alert of the potential for water shortages during droughts to install a water desalination plant in case we run out of water in the next drought!

Please protect our existing water ways. Please protect our beautiful natural heritage by ensuring that mining cannot take place in any water catchment area. Please consider a national and environmental approach. Please use common sense. The only people who are likely to profit from fracking; and it is a brief short term profit; are the shareholders of AGL and similar companies. The people who will lose are the future generations.

Please do not risk the public health of our largest most beautiful city and especially please consider the farmers and townspeople of Gloucester. Please do not allow local councils to exempt lands from environmental guidelines.

The people of this state value their heritage. Please protect our water supply and our environment!

Yours sincerely

Judith Shand
Judith Shand

To: Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Email: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au
CC: Barry O'Farrell MP
Brian Doyle MP

**RE: Draft Amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy
(Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries)
(Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013
Under the
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979**

Dear Sir / Madam,

I “**strongly object**” to the proposed changes in such as they do not “fully address the issues”!!

My reasons in brief are as follows:

- Media Release – 21st March 2013,
- Exclusion Zone of 2 Kilometres, and
- Opt Out Clause – for Local Councils.

Media Release – 21st March 2013.

Firstly I will address the issue of the Media Release by Adam Raskell on behalf of Brad Hazzard MP, as this document does not correctly inform anyone of the “true meaning” behind this “statement”!

Here we have a Government Minister stating that:

Quote:

“CSG activities will also be excluded from land identified as a Critical Industry Cluster – which includes the Upper Hunter horse breeding and wine making industries.

“Once finalised, the policy will ensure CSG exploration and production activities cannot occur in country towns, suburbs, villages and critical industry clusters across NSW.

Unquote:

Now this statement does not mention anything in regards to the “Opt Out Clause” now being addressed in the document which is the subject of this submission.

Are the community to “believe that a State Minister made an error in his Media Release, or are the community to believe that it was “left out” so as “hoodwink the community”, as most individuals would not notice this omission, so that this State Government could say:

Quote:

“These new restrictions build on the NSW Government’s Strategic Regional Land Use Policy, which provides the toughest set of CSG regulations in Australia.

“Just as we did throughout the 18 months of consultation for the Strategic Regional Land Use Policy, we’ve listened to the community and acted.

“Exclusion zones are part of additional measures being put in place by the Government to address community concerns about CSG.

Unquote:

So this means to me, that the NSW State Government is lying to me, and are hoping that “I will not notice” this blatant lie!

Then there is the statement that:

Quote:

“The Environment Protection Authority will be the lead regulator of environmental and health impacts for CSG activities in NSW.

“The State’s Chief Scientist and Engineer, Professor Mary O’Kane will conduct an independent review of CSG activities in NSW, including any potential impact on water catchments.

Unquote:

Now this is stating that the EPA in NSW will be the lead regulator for CSG activities in NSW, so who “else” will be a “regulator in NSW”?

Plus it also states that a Government employee, Professor Mary O’Kane, will conduct an “independent review”!

How independent can this review be if it be conducted for the State Government, by a State Government employee?

This appears again to be the State Government treating the community as “idiots”, as there will be “no true” independent research!

Then there is the final statement:

Quote:

“These changes provide certainty for the community while ensuring that the industry can continue to meet the State’s energy needs,” Mr Hazzard said.

Unquote:

Now we have the last part of the lie, this being that the community can be certain of protection from the CSG mining issue – what about the “Opt Out Clause”?

Plus the last part of this statement, to placate the CSG mining industry, that they can continue to mine, so as to meet the State’s energy needs, or probably better stated as, “continue to make huge profits at the expense of the NSW community, and to return some monies to the State Government coffers”!

So in conclusion, this is either a “monumental mistake”, by the Government Minister, a Minister that can go National TV and “make fun” of the process, by belittling any community concerns, a Minister appointed by our State Premier, Barry O’Farrell, but it is more probably, a “total lie”, a lie to hoodwink the community, a community that voted this Government into power!

If this CSG mining does go ahead, will:

- This Government still be in power come next election?
- The Federal Liberal Party get voted into power this year at election time?

You answer these questions, and no matter how naive you can be, I think you know the answer!

Exclusion Zone of Two (2) Kilometres.

This choice of an exclusion zone, was this based on any “sound research”, or is this just a “knee jerk” reaction to appease the general community?

- This “exclusion zone”, of two (2) kilometres, where was this arbitrary figure dreamed up, and by whom?
- Why not a figure of twenty (20) kilometres, or two hundred (200) kilometres?
- Any mining, whatever type of mining, in close proximity to residential land, or land used for farming, cattle production, or water catchment areas, “should be totally and unequivocally banned”!

Having read articles on CSG mining, sourced information on the internet, and viewed the ‘4 corners program’, it is readily obvious that what is proposed with CSG mining is not acceptable due to the findings of “independent researchers”, that is, the researchers that are not being paid by either the various Government bodies, or the CSG industry, show that there are major concerns with this process and industry in general!

Why should “greedy businesses” have the ability to do as they please, to self monitor, to inform the Government bodies what is acceptable or not, and then wrap up the whole question with a statement that they are helping the NSW community by providing cheaper power sources!

What these businesses are interested in is the amassing of a substantial profit, at the expense of the NSW community.

We the community, have to work to purchase our homes, we have to comply with all of the State and Local Government regulations when building, and then “big business” can come along and do as they please!

This is not acceptable!

The bottom line is, two (2) kilometres, above or below the ground, is a “ridiculous rule and a ridiculous distance”, it is another rule to “hoodwink” the community, and should not even be considered!

Get independent research before any decision is made, halt this CSG mining now!

Opt Out Clause – for Local Councils.

This is an interesting addition to what was promised by the O’Farrell Government, this has now been “slipped in, and not mentioned in the Media Release”!

In my opinion, this is a Government “sitting on the fence, trying appease both sides of this issue, but favouring one side only”, that side being big business!

Again, we have a State Government trying to “hoodwink” the community!

AGL have already shown their hand in Menangle, of offering money for community projects, so as to get the rights to CSG mining, and then damaging the land in that area!

The NSW community knows of the Local Councils complaining of not having enough money to function fully for their local community, so the State Government will now allow the likes of AGL to come to the Councils “aid”, by providing funds, so as to get their CSG mining rights!

This is probably the most devious of all of the actions by the NSW State Government in this CSG mining issue, this is totally underhanded, this is a way in which this Government, one that I unfortunately helped to vote into power, one that my local State member, Brian Doyle, has openly deceived me, to my face, at a public meeting, by stating, “it is dead in the water”!

More lies!

Conclusion.

As a citizen of this country, having been born in this country, freely able to elect Government bodies, I totally believe that:

- The two (2) kilometre exclusion zone is totally unacceptable – should be much greater.
- The Council Opt Out Clause has to be rejected – should not even be considered – deleted totally from this policy.
- There should be proper independent research conducted.

I have included some of my recent submission on CSG mining, as I believe it is relevant to this current issue.

Resident of Woodbine, Post Code 2560.

Extracts from my Previous Submission on CSG Mining.

This was sent recently, and covers other areas of my concerns.

CSG Mining is an Evolving Technology.

I am concerned that the CSG mining is a technologically-evolving industry whose impacts has not been independently or scientifically researched, and remains largely unknown. This view is supported by professional organisations and academics in evidence to the NSW Upper House and Senate Inquiries into Coal Seam Gas Mining in 2011, and by subsequent research in this country and overseas.

No Independent or Scientific Research.

We have had to rely on the industry for much of our information when the industry has a vested interest in the final outcome.

Third party consultants and external laboratories' that are engaged and **“paid for”** by the industry are **not independent!!**

Nor is any funded or co-funded research by the CSG mining industry.

Health Issues.

Also doctors for the “Environment Australia” claim that health impacts from CSG mining have not yet been assessed.

The lessons that have been learnt with **“asbestos”** in Australia, and with **“Big Tobacco”** in the USA, these are indications and results from being able to “self monitor” any issues that may arise – it just does not work – there are too many vested interests for the Mining Sector to be impartial – they just wish to “make huge profits”!!

Self Monitoring by AGL.

It claims that the Camden Gas Project has been safely operating for 10 years.

Yet we understand the impacts on groundwater and air quality have not been adequately monitored, and while AGL has been operating under an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL No. 12003), it has been allowed to self-monitor its compliance, self-investigate and self-report such that we do not know what true impacts it may have had.

Air and Water Quality.

The National Water Commission in its Position Statement (3rd December 2012) said that impacts may emerge over a long time period.

Look at the preliminary research from Queensland by the Southern Cross University in Tara, and overseas, which is all deeply concerning, especially where fracking has been used.

Look at the land values in that area now; no one can sell their property, as no wants to buy into that area!!

Plus, what about our water resources, no one knows where the aquifers run to or from, so do AGL wish to destroy these as well??

Then there is the proposal that AGL run their “gas pipes” beside the fresh water canal, as it would suit AGL, that way they do not have to purchase any land, or pay royalties to locate their pipes, on some ones property. This is another example of their greed.

Environmental Issues.

AGL’s past performance on these issues has been very poor, exactly as you would expect from a company that can self monitor and investigate environmental issues, where they can “cover up any of their mistakes”, even though they are contravening, and are in breach of its EPL No. 12003 licence.

This of course will only lead to more cover ups, if they are not taken to account for these issues already perpetuated.

Government Regulations.

NSW Governments new regulations for CSG mining will not ensure a safe operation of this type of mining, it can be seen that AGL has little consideration for any Government regulations, it is ignoring governmental Environmental Licence regulations, it appears to be a case of, “money talks”, those with the money do as they please, and the rest of us suffer!!

It appears this Government has no “back bone”, or are being “paid off” by AGL, so that AGL can do as they please.

As for the NSW minister, Brad Hazzard, who trivialised this mining technique, and our concerns, it just goes to prove that you do not need any qualifications to enter government as a minister, just a “enough gullible people to believe your lies to vote you into office”!!

It is unfortunate that I voted for the Liberal party in the last election, in both the State and Local government elections, so I am now getting paid back for believing the lies!!

Land and House Values.

For those of us living in this area, and a growing area at that, with a lot of new land releases occurring at this present time, with no information being supplied to those new home owners, this is going to greatly impact on our major family asset, our home and land!!

I could easily bring this to the basic level of, “would you like this to occur where you currently reside, would you like the implications to you, your family and neighbours”.

I think the answer would be **NO !!**

I have asked that question, and I ask that you look to your conscience, to see what is fair and equitable to the general public, those persons living in this area, **not what will make AGL richer !!**

Future Costs.

I am also very concerned that the costs of any **unforeseen problems** will have to be borne by the community, which is me, a rate payer, all the other rate payers, and all of the taxpayers after AGL are long gone from this area!!

This is, and will be grossly irresponsible, and it is something that both the Federal and State Governments need to address **NOW**, all political parties need to be cognizant of this possibility.

Conclusion.

It is evident that **ALL** Government parties chase the “dollar being offered by the big companies”, at the expense of the general public, the tax and rate payers; we are on the bottom of the pile where any concerns with “quality of life” are concerned.

This is not a project to benefit the general public; it is just another way in which AGL can make more money.

From all reports that I have heard, this “coal gas” is a very small percentage of a natural resource, and will probably be sold overseas, as there is enough natural gas available in Australia currently, and for the future.

This project needs to be stopped, it is not needed, the implications of using untried methods of mining is beyond belief, we do not wish to be the “guinea pigs”, we do not wish to lose any value on our house and land, just look at what happened in Queensland!!

And AGL is no different!!

All AGL want is more money, for their executives and share holders, at the expense of the general public.

Note: *I do not wish to have my name or private details to be made public on the Department's Website or to AGL, which is why I have only included my Suburb and Post Code in this submission.*

srlup - Submission on Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones

From: Rosie Lee <rosie.lee.54@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 11:43 PM
Subject: Submission on Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones

2 Lilli Pilli Dr

Byron Bay

2481

Dear Minister

The proposals are so inadequate as to be utterly ineffectual in dealing with the demonstrable threats to our health, our water, our food security and preventing impacts on extreme weather events caused by CSG mining and fracking. All licences should be revoked immediately, and the practice of fracking banned outright. To do anything less is a complete abrogation of the Governments duty to protect the people of NSW .

Also the Department of Primary Industry and Trade should immediately remove all references on it's public information sheet about CSG that describe it as a clean energy, and low greenhouse gas. These two statements are un supported by science and the growing body of evidence shows these statements to be patently untrue. To continue to support the invasion of this dirty industry is to the detriment of agriculture, tourism and peoples individual wealth accumulated over their lives in their properties and farms.

To even be remotely credible they should:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around ***all*** residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be ***removed*** unless it is matched with an ***equivalent power*** for councils to ***list new prohibited areas***.
3. The provisions should include ***exclusions for all food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas***.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to ***all forms of unconventional gas extraction*** including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that ***have been approved*** but have ***not yet satisfied their conditions*** of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Sincerely

Rosie Lee

0401 407 603

Belinda Noonan
1 Ormonde Rd
Yeronga, QLD 4104

11/04/13

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear The Director Strategic Regional Policy,

As a mother and concerned citizen, I welcome the opportunity to comment on the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

This amendment is completely inadequate considering the high risk of long term and irreversible effects associated with the Coal Seam Gas industry. It is great that exclusion zones are now recognised as being essential to protect the rights of Australians who do NOT want unconventionally mined gas at all, yet are having this industry continue regardless of their opinion of it. However the 2km exclusion zone is no where near far enough if you are considering the health effects and noise associated with Coal Seam Gas extraction, production and compression. The amendment does not provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions, nor for emissions beyond the 2km exclusion zone.

The exclusion zone should be extended to include drinking water catchments, waterways used for fishing and other recreational activities. It should also protect public lands including high conservation value land, land bordering and including national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes and any of Australia's iconic natural places. The exclusion zone should definately prohibit Coal Seam Gas extraction on and near to productive agricultural farmland.

Coal mining threatens health and people's livelihoods if they depend on air and water quality/availability as a resource to support their industry. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does not protect communities from coal mining and its negative side effects. Policies should be introduced or drastically improved and strengthened to protect people and the environment from coal expansion and the insidious CSG industry.

A moratorium should be placed on CSG drilling and all other unconventionally mined gas until a thorough and independent study has been done into the human health impacts.

A cost benefit analysis should be conducted into the inevitable impacts on water resources. Is it worth a dollar value to risk water contamination, drawdown, and permanent damage to the aquifer systems? We live on one of the driest continents on earth, and we all need clean water on a daily basis to survive, so in my opinion there is no monetary amount that is worth this risk.

I urge you to stop this industry in its tracks before any further permanent damage occurs.

I urge you to personally research the consequences of drilling, fracturing and "storing" waste water.

Did you know that although BTEX chemicals are not permitted for use, they naturally exist in the coal seams? This means that when the seam is fractured and the gas and water come to the surface, the BTEX chemicals inevitably come with them. This cannot be controlled by the gas companies or anyone. Benzene at its detection level (a miniscule amount) is carcinogenic. That is one freaky fact!

Please think for yourself. Ask the hard questions and ascertain the truth from people who are not representing the industry and fat wallets.

Thankyou,



Belinda Noonan

srlup - Coal Seam Gas Exclusion

From: "wayne oling" <wayne.olling@optusnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 12:10 AM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas Exclusion

Like many other residents I have concerns about the the adverse impacts of Coal Seam Gas Extraction and wish the NSW Government would ban the process altogether.

The reality is that a substantial amount of the gas obtained this way is going overseas and for the profit more so of a limited number of individuals with a certain further amount of royalties to the NSW Government.

However, the end result is an environment in NSW adversely altered (or should I say adulterated) for an extended, if not unended, extent.

This is to achieve short term gain at the expense of long term gain whereas the latter would far exceed the former in benefits if permitted to be the course taken. Further, the sustaining of the existing environment and what it offers serves a far greater number of NSW residents made up of present and future generations of citizens.

The waters under the ground must not be squandered by the peculiar and, Internationally observed, destructive process of Coal Seam Gas Extraction.

I urge the NSW Government ban the process of Coal Seam Gas Extraction in NSW.

Yours faithfully,
Wayne Oling
265 Prospect Hwy
Seven Hills NSW 2147
tel 9621 2105
email: wayne.olling@optusnet.com.au

srlup

From: Celia Lewis <celia64lewis@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 5:46 AM

Dear Director,

As you grasp the opportunity to protect zoned residential , industry clusters, and viticulture, please deeply consider extending protections for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

If these protections also regulate coal mining and unconventional forms of gas production such as shale gas and tight gas, then the protections may be considered genuine.

This is the time to take a stance - the dollar which is a temporary state, versus the well being of humans , fauna, flora and natural systems, and the continued nurturing of life sustaining products such as food and water.

Yours sincerely,
Celia Lewis

srlup - CSG exclusion zones

From: Fi & Steve <coooeey@myplace.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 6:27 AM
Subject: CSG exclusion zones

Hello - thankyou for listening and for the exclusion zones but I would like to submit that :

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.
6. No CSG should commence until **baseline data** is available for all areas. The Condamine river in Tara has methane levels higher than anywhere in the world (even Russia !) - we can only assume this was caused by the CSG activity - where is the baseline data ??.
7. Methane (CSG) is 100 times worse in terms of global warming than CO2. CSG might be better than coal in terms of emissions but it is nowhere near as good as **renewables**. Where is the action on renewables ? The govt needs to be doing more - I have solar panels and solar hot water and that was not easy financially - climate change is here NOW - it appears that it is already too late to save the Gt Barrier Reef due to global inaction. We need to put pressure on USA and China - the biggest emitters.

Thankyou
 Fiona Wood
 Environmental Science student
 Lismore, NSW

11 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

This letter is written to express my serious concerns on the wording and coverage of the draft amendment noted above.

As a rural landowner I believe that the proposed 2km buffer around urban residential zones, be they currently developed or proposed development, that the proposed 2km buffer should apply to all residential dwellings, urban and rural. The coal seam gas industry has enormous impacts, I do not want to live, and don't think anyone should live within a mining area.

The SEPP identifies land for exclusion described as "Critical Industry Cluster Land". What can be more critical than land which produces the food we eat? In the driest continent on earth, in an era where weather patterns are changing, protection of water should be of utmost priority. Water catchments must be excluded from the coal seam gas industry. Where I live in northeastern NSW the remnants of natural landscape are unique and precious, their inhabitants, both flora and fauna under threat simply from current human activity. These areas should be protected and excluded from coal seam gas development.

As well as applying to coal seam gas mining, this SEPP should be amended to include all forms of unconventional gas mining, including, but not limited to, shale gas and tight gas. Extraction methods used for unconventional gas mining forever alter the geology of the land, with implications for underground water at a minimum.

I do not think local councils should be given the right to nominate land for exemption from coal seam gas development prohibition. As a resident and observer of council activities, their actions to date include questionable and unethical decision making.

It is also a concern that the SEPP amendment as drafted does not apply to projects approved but not yet commenced. As approval for these projects was gained under questionable assessment, I believe the SEPP should be amended to state that it applies to any project currently under assessment and those already approved, but not yet in operation.

..../2

In conclusion, coal seam gas (and other forms of unconventional gas) mining do not belong in landscapes which provide food, water and places of residence. This 'industry' has enormous impacts, and cannot guarantee that the degradation of land resulting from its activities can be rectified. Therefore the SEPP must be amended to include for exclusion all agricultural land, all water catchments, and all areas of environmentally significant landscapes. As well, the SEPP must exclude land on which there is a dwelling, no matter its location. Those who live in the country deserve the same protection as an urban resident.

Attached to this submission are two papers which explain in some detail the elements of life and landscape in northeastern NSW. The Northern Rivers, where I live, requires protection. These papers provide many reasons why this part of this state should be completely excluded from coal seam gas (and other forms of unconventional gas) mining.

This draft amendment must be amended to truly protect the environment and those who live within it. The importance of the resulting legislation is high, I believe the amended version of this SEPP should be put on exhibition. The future of NSW is at stake.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Christine Coates".

Christine Coates

Attachments: Coal Seam Gas in The Northern Rivers – For All Concerned
Paper presented by Professors Robert Kooyman and David Milledge

Sarah Francis
12 Down Street
FRESHWATER QLD 4870

12 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

By email: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I wish to lodge a submission with regard to the proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP).

The proposed changes provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters. However, they do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow councils to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer at the absolute minimum around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food-producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Australia's agricultural land and water catchments are essential to our ability to feed ourselves. Contamination, once it occurs, can take many generations to be repaired to the point that the land or water supply becomes usable again. Therefore it is of vital importance that these areas have all the protections necessary to ensure that contamination can **never** occur.

Although I live in Queensland, a long way from New South Wales, environmental threats are not contained by arbitrary state borders, and is important for all Australians wherever we live that our environment is safeguarded for future generations.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Francis

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

From: "marianmcc" <marianmcc@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 7:40 AM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>

Sr Marian McClelland sss
 16/59 Flora St Kirrawee
 NSW 2232
 April 12, 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I live in the Sutherland Shire, in Kirrawee. I have been concerned for a long time about the effects of coal seam gas mining on our agricultural land and on the land in general. I have thought for a long time now that it would always be better for the environment and ultimately the economy if money spent on ventures such as coal seam gas were spent instead on renewable energy.

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

I acknowledge the amendment by the NSW Government, which includes a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas and critical industry clusters. While this is a significant step in the right direction, it fails to take into account the need for further environmental protections that safeguard our drinking water, our health and our conservation and agricultural lands.

I believe that the current SEPP draft amendment could be strengthened. Key points are as follows:

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG

has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.

5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

Yours Sincerely

Sr Marian McClelland sss

srlup - Forward thinking

From: "Paul Cockburn" <cockburn@pnc.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 8:51 AM
Subject: Forward thinking

Dear Sir / Madam

Water Catchment regulations state that any activity, whether it be recreational or commercial, is only permitted if it is deemed to be either neutral or beneficial to the catchment. Until coal seam gas mining is *PROVEN* to adhere to these parameters it must not take place in catchment areas.

I ask this in the name of our children.

And yours.

Paul Cockburn

"Balarinji"

156 Strang Road

Tambar Springs NSW 2381

12TH April 2013.

The Director Strategic Regional Policy

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

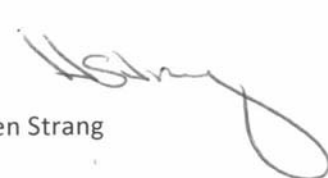
Please find following our submission in response to the New South Wales governments proposed amendment to the State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) .We are land holders on the unique and productive Liverpool Plains.

This amendment includes a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas and critical industry clusters. While this is step in the right direction, it fails to take into account the need for further environmental protections that safeguard our water, health and magnificent agricultural land on the Liverpool Plains and surrounding slopes.

This amendment is still a far cry from the commitments made by the Liberal and National Party's prior to the 5th March 2011 Election. There was a promise that prime agricultural land was off limits to petroleum or mineral exploitation and there would be a balanced approach for all stake holders. It is evident the government is aware that the Coal Seam Gas (CGS) is not a safe industry, when the governments own Planning Minister states on a news report on Monday 18th February 2013 "There is nothing more important than feeling safe in your own home", and the Deputy Premier states he would not like CSG activity next to his house. Why are less populated and less labour intensive industries the sacrificial lambs? We are not second grade citizens and have every right to express our disapproval at such blatant discrimination. Our livelihoods, precious water, soil and health are at risk because a government is only interested in a bankable income not representing the people.

For the NSW Liberal and National government to keep to their election promise and claims, there can be no harm to underground water, our health or loss of agricultural productivity and therefore must include the Liverpool Plains in this amendment.

Yours faithfully

A.S.R. 

Andrew and Helen Strang

srlup - URGENT please confirm receipt of this submission

From: Mary Gardner <mgardner@mgardner.info>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 9:20 AM
Subject: URGENT please confirm receipt of this submission

CONCERNING proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones

submission from Mary Gardner 3 Cooper St Byron Bay NSW

I object to the proposed amendments as they are woefully inadequate.

1. The infrastructure of CSG mining, its layout on the land and its use and abuse of water, its pollution both immediate and longterm as well heads deteriorate -- all these are so bound up with every aspect of unconventional gas mining that no amendments or regulations or modifications can redeem the effort. None. Unconventional gas mining such as CSG must simply be banned. Full stop. No exception. No compromise.
2. My reasoning is that the industrialization of landscapes in Australia precludes the options that both humans and wildlife have to adapt to new lifestyles demanded of everything as climate changes. Breaking up the landscape ruins the connectivity of farming, the wildlife habitat, the parks, the open spaces -- and that is simply what happens above ground.
3. In banning CSG and other mining such as tar sands, by forbidding expansion of coal mining throughout Australia, by removing subsidies of fossil fuel industries in all its forms -- capital and political will can focus on renewable energy. Conversion and innovation can enhance a new economy.
4. A moratorium not regulation is required of CSG and any expansion of any aspect of fossil fuel industries. Here on the east coast, this means that the Great Barrier Reef will continue to hold Heritage status and also have a chance at the future. On the West Coast it means the reefs and coastline of Western Australia can maintain their integrity.

Transform NSW and Australia with genuine statesmanship -- announce a moratorium of CSG mining, of any unconventional mining and a halt to coal mining expansion. Assist conversion to renewables. Help decentralized power projects. Show the world what we really mean by a lucky country -- not that we have resources to despoil, but the smarts to select renewables.

Thank you.

srlup - Re: SEPP Mining Petroleum Production Extractive Industries 2013 submission

From: Janelle Gervasoni <admin@mrgelectrical.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 11:13 AM
Subject: Re: SEPP Mining Petroleum Production Extractive Industries 2013 submission

I believe the SEPP changes should include;

- All unconventional types of extraction.
- That until the independent science is provided that the chemicals being used are safe that certain technologies should be prohibited .
- Exclusion zones for: all agricultural land, water catchments, water aquifers that supply any agricultural lands or residents of small communities and sensitive environmental areas.
- That any changes made should apply to existing approvals as well as any future ones.
- That any mining applications should have to be publicised in the local media and that community and council consultation should be sought prior to any approval.

Janelle Gervasoni
403 Wimbledon Road
Wimbledon NSW 2795

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srlup - CSG Planning

From: Caron Light <life.success.you@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 11:16 AM
Subject: CSG Planning

Please consider the points below when planning for CSG should it continue.

Personally, I would prefer all resources put into longer term solutions that are renewable.

CSG is a short-sighted solution with no long term benefits to society as a whole.

It seems a primitive solution compared to some of the amazing technological advances that are available to us.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Sincerely
Caron

Megan Lewis
67 Barrington St
Gloucester NSW 2422
Ph 02 65582299
11 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Gloucester NSW and I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy. Gloucester is situated in rural NSW and has an abundance of rivers, streams and tributaries that wind their way down towards Taree. The population of this region rely on water for drinking, farming, recreation etc. This is why it is so important that we are guaranteed our water will be protected from any potential harm.

The draft Mining SEPP is a start and provides welcome protection for some residents and industries but I, among many others believe further amendments are needed to satisfy the communities in this region that our water, our livelihoods are safe. I have listed these amendments in point form below. And yes...everyone else has probably used the same points. These amendments are put forward from concerned communities, councils, groups, individuals and experts in related fields from around NSW and Australia. They are well thought out and concise and deserve immediate consideration and inclusion in the SEPP.

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been

conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.

5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and traveling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

It is important that these amendments be made to *the* State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

The Deputy Premier admitted on a recent 7:30 program that he wouldn't want a CSG well near his place because (1) it will reduce his property value and (2) there is always the potential for something to go wrong. If the Deputy Premier doesn't want it near his home, neither do the people of the Gloucester Valley.

Yours Sincerely

Megan Lewis

srlup - Draft Planning Policy Coal Seam Gas

From: [REDACTED]
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 11:23 AM
Subject: Draft Planning Policy Coal Seam Gas

The proposed policy should include the following:

- must apply to the Gloucester AGL project and any other project which has not reached the construction phase in any significant way eg no gas produced for sale, no processing equipment **installed**
- must protect all water catchments and subterranean water resources
- must protect any viable farming land (not just the very narrowly defined "prime" land currently protected)
- companies must provide a **substantial guarantee against environmental damage** (\$100 million to \$1 billion depending on the physical size and potential for damage), to be administered independently to the company, eg by a community board with local council and local state member representation.
- exclusion zones to be **5 km** around towns and villages (more than 100 residents) and "line of sight" with **1 km** minimum around individual residences
- companies making any request for well sites and/or pipeline easements should be required to **purchase the entire property** if the owner requires it. An independent tribunal should be established to adjudicate disputes with all costs paid by the company proposing the development
- the policy should apply to all mining, including coal (open cut and underground), any type of gas, any other type of liquid/solid hydrocarbon material, any other mineral/metal/ore.
- the concept of "opt-out" of exclusion zones by local councils needs to be further developed to include a plebescite by all residents and land owners in the affected town/village

Regards Name withheld.

srlup - Submission Relating to SEPP amendments BAN ON FARMLANDS

From: ruth WILLIAMS <roofiness@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 11:37 AM
Subject: Submission Relating to SEPP amendments BAN ON FARMLANDS

To Whom It May Concern

Farming needs water. Various politicians have been rude about the public concern over fracking and coal seam gas extraction.

Apart from human safety, how dare you encroach on the most Australian of lifestyles; living with the land.

If you look at the worldwide antagonism to the project, and the recent ABC Four Corners report, you will see that the public concern is genuine and that any such mining at the moment is due to very questionable laws and regulations regarding how, who and why this mining projects are going ahead.

It is obvious that it is a political game; a gain for political funds, and a game for those in the business of making big money from it.

Please understand; farmers farm under conditions that most of us would baulk at. They also face overseas ownership of their product, takeovers of their land because of lax laws; and now are faced with this ridiculous spread of the most harrowing example of human greed imaginable. You laughed in our faces at a demonstration last year; Chris Hartcher in a newspaper article asked anyone to prove there was evidence against it being safe and they left no right of reply.

Please reconsider; while you can blame the labor government before you for making CSG Mining possible, there are other ways of providing energy.

Please reconsider all 'approved' plans - do you think we dont know how 'steathy' you are

We just need to work them out.

G. Ruth Williams
PO Box 1061
Ulladulla NSW 2539

srlup - Proposed CSG exclusion zones

From: Rebecca Hudson <suffragetteclothing@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 11:40 AM
Subject: Proposed CSG exclusion zones

To whom it may concern,

I do not think that the planned submission has gone far enough with it's exclusion zones. I do not agree at all with coal seam gas as a viable energy source. I believe that it is unconscionable that you, our government are putting short term profits which don't even stay in our country, ahead of the destruction of water tables and risking food producing land and water - WATER for our children and future generations. I believe there are many more energy sources that we could be using - solar, wind power and we could even be harvesting the methane from our own waste (poo!) to be used as viable, renewable, clean and friendly energy sources which feed us and our beautiful country rather than pillaging our resources and destroying our land and just taking, it is laziness and greed that is feeding this.

Here are a few amendments to the proposal that need to be added-

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 20km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you for your time. As my elected government, I have faith that you are putting the needs and safety of the community first, not only for today, but that you have a responsibility to your community's future sustainability as well.

Kind regards,
 Rebecca Hudson

--
 Suffragette
 Rebecca Hudson

PO Box 285
 Clunes NSW 2480
 Australia

m: 0421 238 021

YOU ARE LOVED!

srlup - Coal Seam Gas Residential Exclusion Zone

From: "Renee Engl" <renee8@aapt.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 11:46 AM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas Residential Exclusion Zone

Renee Engl
5 Kamala Court
Coopers Shoot NSW 2479

12. April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of the Northern Rivers in NSW and would like to comment on the proposed policy.

The plan to amend the mining SEPP to set controls and a buffer zone to stop the development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters is commendable, but the change does not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester.

A comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential is urgently needed. Allowing CSG development to occur within built-up areas that may not be zoned as 'residential' is extremely risky.

Yours sincerely,

Renee Engl

10th April, 2013

Johanna Evans and Sean Mackie
1047 Green Pigeon Rd
Green Pigeon
NSW 2474
Ph: 02 6633 1396
Email: gpg@bordnet.com.au

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

These amendments go a long way in protecting water and communities from the dangers of CSG but it needs several adjustments. This needs to be passed immediately, without delay and with these following adjustments:

All of these amendments need to be made permanently and not have any possibility of State & Local Government given exemptions or the ability to 'opt out'. (See last sub-title)

Clean water is our right. Without it there is no food, no life and no hope for many of us.

Protecting communities where CSG and coal has already been approved

These new amendments should apply to all projects approved after February 13 this year. Three big New South Wales project approvals were rushed through on February 14 – Gloucester coal seam gas and Maules Creek and Boggabri coalmines, these have not started yet, so it is not too late for their approvals to be revisited and for the water impacts of these massive projects to be properly assessed.

We want all coal seam gas and large coal mining projects approved since Minister Burke became the Environment Minister to have their water impacts assessed by this stricter criteria and a review of EIS submitted to the Government in the last 2 years to inform decision makers about the water impacts of developments that have been approved and avert possible environmental catastrophies.

This is incredibly important, in light of recent revelations of the effects of CSG on health and underground water.

Landholders right to say no

Protect landholders and communities from coal seam gas and large coal mining, we need to give landholders the right to say no to coal seam gas and large coal mining projects on their land as per The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 17.

Exclusion Zones

No CSG on Prime Agricultural Land or near a residence (even 5km is not enough and 2km is the minimum).

No CSG in or near Heritage areas (this includes the Great Barrier Reef, disgustingly, currently under threat from CSG related industry).

No CSG where we have threatened species or in high-conservation value areas.

Make the amendments apply to other forms of coal and gas

The new amendments don't apply to shale gas, tight gas, and underground coal gasification and this needs to be remedied as they are just as bad. These forms of mining also threaten water resources – it makes sense that these new protections apply to them as well.

Stop the hand off of all federal approval powers

The proposed new amendments should not allow the Government to hand the responsibility to protect water from coal seam gas and large coal mining back to the State Governments or Local Governments.

These new amendments need to be implemented immediately. The community demands it.

In good faith that this submission will be considered,

Johanna Evans & Sean Mackie

Submission regarding “Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013”

The two CIC’s identified are not sufficient, as equine and viticulture industries do not represent the majority of critical industries in NSW. This is not to say they should not be protected, but that many more industries which should fall under this umbrella.

For NSW residents, critical industries specified should include:

Water catchment areas (the majority of urban residents are wholly dependent on ‘town’ water for drinking and household needs)

Farming areas (fibre, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and cropping industries are vital for the self-sufficiency of NSW and would be irreparably damaged by the widespread and cumulative impacts of CSG mining). NB. Any land zoned “Primary Production” should be excluded from CSG mining activity.

Important natural areas utilised for sport and recreation (such as national parks, wildlife refuges) contribute to lifestyles of those living in NSW, and visitors from interstate and overseas. These areas are identified under/as:

- Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995
- Fisheries Management Act 1994
- Wilderness Act 1987
- item that is listed on the State Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 1977 or that is subject to an interim heritage order under the Heritage Act 1977
- land that comprises, or on which there is, a heritage item or a draft heritage item
- National Parks
- land within a wilderness area (identified under the Wilderness Act 1987)
- land identified as an environmentally sensitive area under the Codes SEPP
- land within a heritage conservation area or a draft heritage conservation area
- land that is reserved for a public purpose in an environmental planning instrument
- land to which Drinking Water Catchments Regional Environmental Plan No 1 applies
- land that is bush fire prone land
- a flood control lot
- excluded land identified by an environmental planning instrument
- land in a foreshore area
- land containing soils suitable for cropping or agriculture

Areas for Future Residential Growth

The only map detailed here is for North West Sydney (near Blacktown) and South West Sydney (near Liverpool).

No other areas are put aside for growth (and exclusion of CSG mining) anywhere in NSW. This is a major oversight. There are many urban areas within major centres, and outskirts of regional towns that are earmarked for residential expansion and subdivision. Maps should be drawn up for each LGA on potential areas for residential expansion.

Residential Zones Covered by This SEPP

This draft SEPP define residential zone as any of the following zones or an equivalent zone:

- Zone R1 General Residential
- Zone R2 Low Density Residential
- Zone R3 Medium Density Residential
- Zone R4 High Density Residential
- Zone RU5 Village

Residential areas (as defined in this SEPP) should also include:

- Farming residential
- Large lot residential
- Rural residential
- Rural small holding
- Rural lifestyle

If the **risks of air/water/soil contamination and other cumulative impacts of CSG mining** (such as noise, light, reduced security, loss of land value, loss of privacy, increased traffic, loss of land amenity and future income) are deemed not appropriate for five residential zones, why are they deemed appropriate for all other residential zones (all land where residential buildings are permitted)? The 2km buffer should cover all residential dwellings, regardless of their zoning and geographic location.

A multitude of risks are posed when CSG is allowed on areas deemed “**bush fire prone**”. Fugitive emissions from wells, emissions kept captive by low-lying land such as gullies, gas-contaminated water, piping of gas and flare ups at gas wells pose unmitigatable risks within these areas. Residents and businesses in adjoining areas would be put at high risk through CSG mining.

There are other concerns with this Draft Amendment to this SEPP:

Will it pose a tight enough protection (even with many vital changes and additions)?

- LEP zones are constantly updated and consolidated – meaning that the zones specified could mean nothing in 12 months.
- Individual councils could opt out of this protection (by re-zoning land to zones not protected by this policy or exempt a particular area from protection) if offered sufficient financial incentives by gas exploration/production companies – leaving residents in position of loss and risk. This right to veto should be removed.
- Surely the activity of CSG should be legislated against in other state/federal legislation as well (to offer more rigorous protection to residents)
- This SEPP only applies to CSG mining – residential areas are at major risk also by coal mining and shale gas mining. This SEPP should broaden its scope to provide better protection against cumulative impacts of other major mining activities.
- The CIC maps are to be released following the community consultation stage of this SEPP. The CIC maps and SEPP should be considered simultaneously, otherwise feedback is limited (and to large extent irrelevant), and does not reflect true community sentiment on the areas protected/not. It does not even allow respondents to know the true scope of the SEPP.
- Each LGA has unique land formation and land uses. Each council should be able to list new prohibited areas within their LGA.
- These SEPP amendments should also apply retrospectively to projects already approved, and not commenced operation (and also any projects that have commenced operation and have broken any guidelines or not met all their project deadlines).
- There needs to be strong state and federal legislation to back this SEPP up – namely a solid legislation on Aquifer Interference and the Practice of CSG Mining (not just policies which are still in draft form, and carry no legislative power)

As stated on <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au> “The Department of Planning and Infrastructure supports sustainable growth in NSW. “

CSG mining is not sustainable and works against the long-term self-sufficiency of NSW. It should be banned in all areas as risks are not acceptable, and NSW is not adequately protected for the future against litigation. The state government leaves themselves open to class action over the next four decades by allowing CSG mining to be carried out across the majority of land available in NSW. As a taxpayer, I consider this risk (and the rights taken away from many NSW residents in the process) not to be acceptable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Resident: Pittwater LGA and Greater Taree LGA
Occupation: Cattle Farmer and Events Manager
Age: 46 years Gender: Female

Submission by Denise Ewin re Amendment of State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Productive and Extractive Industries) 2007

Denise Ewin
77 Upper Crystal Creek Road
Crystal Creek NSW 2484
Phone 02 66791575
Email deniseewin@yahoo.com.au

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a concerned resident of the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales. I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed following policy.

The proposed changes in your draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones include welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters. However, these changes do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow councils to exempt an area from the protection, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection. The proposed amendments also leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG extraction and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. The SEPP also does not take into account any impacts of CSG extraction within water catchment areas including the Sydney Catchment Authority Special Areas. The Apex CSG project in the Illawarra escarpment will be drilling close to three key water catchments including the SCA Woronora Special Area, which provides water for the people of Sydney and Wollongong.

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands (including Travelling Stock Routes) from inappropriate mining and gas developments. It is the government's responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales.

I would like to make the following recommendations:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
3. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmlands by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
4. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.

5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near the SCA water catchment areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. More research needs to be done into the impacts on public health as emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone are not regulated. Neither is there any requirements provided for the monitoring of fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructures, such as compressor stations.
8. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied the conditions of approval and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'D Ewin', written in dark ink.

Denise Ewin

srlup - Re- proposed amendments- Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones

From: "The Clingans" <clingans@internode.on.net>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 12:17 PM
Subject: Re- proposed amendments- Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones

I have read the draft and would like to submit the following:

1. The draft should include exclusions for ALL food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive areas.
 2. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.
 3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
 4. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
- In conclusion I would say that all CSG exploration should be stopped until the State government undertakes their own independent base line studies to guarantee the safety to our very vital water supply both above ground and below.

Regards

Darrell Clingan
47 Pacific Ave
Werri Beach NSW 2534

srlup - CSG submission

From: "Expandesign" <expandesign@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 12:18 PM
Subject: CSG submission

I would like to make the following submission for the NSW government's draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

With kind regards

Walter Eggenberger

Myocum 2481

srlup - coal seam gas exclusion zones

From: "Margaret Tappert" <mtapp@westnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 12:25 PM
Subject: coal seam gas exclusion zones

The present exclusion zones need to be extended to the mid north coast to afford the same protections to the 75,000 residents and primary producers of the Manning Valley.

The Gloucester/Barrington zone is the water catchment for the mighty MANNING RIVER and the security to deliver clean water is paramount to ensuring food resources continue into the future and the health and welfare of the community.

Thank you

Margaret Tappert

srlup - Submission on Mining SEPP exclusion zones

From: "sledge47" <sledge47@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>, "Brad Hazzard" <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 1:45 PM
Subject: Submission on Mining SEPP exclusion zones
CC: "Thomas George" <lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au>, "Geoff Provest" <tweed@parliament.nsw.gov.au>, "Matthew Fraser" <matthew.fraser@nswnationals.org.au>, "Don Page" <office@page.minister.nsw.gov.au>

To: Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001

Submission – 12th April 2013

NRG calls for NSW government to cancel local Petroleum Exploration Licences

As President of the Northern Rivers Guardians, Inc I call on NSW Premier Barry O’Farrell to cancel all petroleum exploration licences (PELs) used by private companies to prospect for coal seam gas (CSG) and other fossil fuels in this region.

The political climate has changed in NSW, along with the weather, and we want the government’s attitude to change with it.

We welcome the announcements by Metgasco and Dart Energy that they have suspended all activity in the Northern Rivers and I believe that now is the right time to declare this area to be a frack-free zone. The Northern Rivers is one of the world’s most diverse ecological communities and our future depends on careful management. We don’t want to be overrun by a ‘gas rush’ that will destroy tourism and agriculture and our wonderful rural lifestyles for the sake of short-term profits for a few big investors. If the government can protect urban areas and certain industries (horse breeding and grape growing) from mining it can surely protect this marvellous region.

The entire Region should be excluded from mining for fossil fuels.

The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

The Northern Rivers population has voted against CSG (87% in Lismore LG elections and around 90% by *Lock The Gate* neighbourhood surveys) and has blockaded drilling operations for more than 100 days near Grafton and Kyogle.

We won’t let CSG mining happen here anyway, so why prolong the agony? Northern Rivers Guardians Inc is open to all the community. People support our work by membership which now exceeds 500 individuals.

The Coalition government believes that the current CSG problem was created by the previous ALP government which gave out licences “like confetti “ according to NSW Planning Minister Mr. Brad Hazzard.

Following last week’s ABC *Four Corners* “Gas Leak” program, AGL announced it is pulling back from its CSG mining expansion at Camden near Sydney. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings statewide.

According to BHP we have plenty of conventional gas for the foreseeable future, so I hope the

government will stop listening to panic-merchants who say the lights will go out in NSW. If we switch now to safe renewable energy that is generated from solar and ocean wave action we may save ourselves from some of the disasters which are increasing due to climate change. I challenge the current government to come into the new era of sustainable practices. Cancel the petroleum exploration licences and invest in renewable energy.

Yours faithfully,
Scott Sledge, JP
12th April 2013
50 Gabal Road Lillian Rock NSW 2480
Ph: 0266 897466 /0266 745213

The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

srlup - Draft Amendment to State Environmental Planning Policy (mining, petroleum production & Extractive industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: [REDACTED]
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 2:51 PM
Subject: Draft Amendment to State Environmental Planning Policy (mining, petroleum production & Extractive industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Dear Sir/Madam, (Director Strategic Regional Policy)

Feedback for your policy is as follows:

1. Remove right to veto for councils. They should not be able to "sell off" our lands to mining companies.
2. Increase the 2km buffer around ALL residential areas to 10km (preferably no coal seam gas at all).
3. Include the right for councils to be able to have the power to declare new residential and prohibited zones.
4. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects already approved in particular ones which have not commenced yet.
5. Protect our water and water catchments, our food producing land and our beautiful yet sensitive environmental areas. These areas should be zoned with an extensive buffer area too!
6. I live in the Campbelltown area – your maps don't show enough detail – please show more detail in future.

Please ensure details are withheld as per your privacy policy.

[REDACTED] (Please suppress my details I do not want them published).

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Best Regards

[REDACTED]

srlup - SEPP CSG ammendments

From: ian gaillard <ian.gaillard@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 3:41 PM
Subject: SEPP CSG ammendments

Submission SEPP CSG Ammendments 12April 2013

The NSW Govt must broaden the exemption criteria of its ammendments and indeed its entire policy on CSG. In May 2012, an executive of BHP, Mike Yeager stated, "there is enough UNCONTRACTED gas from conventional fields in Bass Straight to supply the East Coast of Australia , indefinately. "

Why Then are we told NSW is running out of Gas when it is obvious to Blind Freddie that Companies who are seeking to produce unconventional wish to do so for export? This will lead to Consumers paying World Parity Prices for Domestic Gas.

Why don't NSW contract BHP to supply NSW.?

Like many areas The Northern Rivers of NSW including all the catchments of the Clarence, Tweed and Richmond rivers, seek an exemption from all forms of Unconventional Gas Mining. The majority of people here and in other parts of NSW just don't want it.

Given that the Northern Rivers does already supply food and has the potential to supply a lot more to NSW we are appalled that any Government will put this at risk through risking permanent damage to our underground/surface water systems, the life blood of food security.

The National Water Commission has stated in 2009, CSG exploitation has the Potentional to damage aquifers for upwards of 10,000 years.

The previous Labour and current Liberal National Govts have failed to do any meaningful baseline testing of water before allowing drilling, and leave monitoring for companies to self regulate. Unacceptable!

We call apoon the NSW govt To declare the Northern Rivers of NSW a NO_GO Zone For All forms of Unconventional Gas Drilling and Production.

Ian Gaillard
 Regional Co-ordinator Lock the Gate
 Northern Rivers

*Any policy must cover Unconventional Gas including Coal Seam Gas , Tight Sands Gas, Shale Gas ,..

srlup - FW: SUBMISSION TO NSW GOVERNMENT TO BAN COAL SEAM GAS EXPLORATION.

From: David Maxwell <DavidMaxwell@carriganco.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 3:55 PM
Subject: FW: SUBMISSION TO NSW GOVERNMENT TO BAN COAL SEAM GAS EXPLORATION.

To Whom It May Concern,

As a Family, living on the North West Plains of NSW, we wish to make a submission to the NSW State Government urging them to ban the exploration of Coal Seam Gas.

We have a number of concerns of gas mining. We are concerned of the Health impacts, the water impacts and impacts on livestock, which are yet to be determined. As a result, we believe exclusion zones need to apply to Agricultural Land and Farming Enterprises in our area. not to mention the environmental impacts which will be many if CSG exploration is allowed to prosper! We do not believe that this unsustainable industry should be allowed to risk the existing and sustainable Agricultural Industry that we and our forbearers have worked so hard to establish. The right to carry on business of the CSG companies should only exist if they can guarantee that they will not have any detrimental impact on the existing sustainable businesses.

The continued failure of industry to guarantee safe gas extraction leaves the NSW Government with no alternative but to ban CSG extraction in our area.

We are deeply concerned for our Water Supply. We live on fertile natural Flood Plains. These Plains are flooded and serve as a recharged area for our underground water system. Being part of the Murray Darling Basin, we have both Sub-Artesian (groundwater) and Artesian Water supply. The underground water supply is used for both watering stock, and domestic purposes including growing a garden and vegetables, drinking, etc. We cannot afford to place at risk the quality of this precious resource.

Our family has made a significant investment, not only in farm infrastructure, but also in intellectual capital to develop the landholding to increase productive capacity. We have developed, and continue to develop, a succession plan for the landholding which involves our 3 children working to position themselves within the business. This devotion to education and the sacrifice by family members to build a long term plan for the farm and it's associated businesses is an unquantifiable commitment by our family to our farming enterprise and to the north west slopes of NSW.

As custodians of the land we have preserved many of its natural features and look forward to passing these on to our children and grandchildren so they are able to enjoy the tranquillity that our farm has afforded to us. CSG has the potential to destroy the landscape we have served to protect and to pass on to our future generations.

As producers of prime lambs and wheat, the quality of our product is of utmost importance to the consumers we supply as we trade upon our "clean green image". The problem for us is that the CSG companies are risking our lively hood and that of the future generations so they can make a quick buck over the next 20 to 30 years. They are saying "trust us we have the science" the reality is they don't, they cannot guarantee the safety of our water and until they can they should be allowed to risk our income until they can.

We would encourage further dialogue with the department to allow them to make a full and fair assessment of our position, and the risks of CSG in our area.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours Sincerely,

David Maxwell
"Glenarden"
Wee Waa NSW

srlup - My concerns with the current CSG mining exclusion zones!

From: Jennifer Pyle <Jennifer.Pyle@clorox.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 4:18 PM
Subject: My concerns with the current CSG mining exclusion zones!

- . The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Jennifer Pyle

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srlup - Prposed Amendment to SEPP, Coal Seam Gas Mining

From: John White <patjohnw@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 4:19 PM
Subject: Prposed Amendment to SEPP, Coal Seam Gas Mining

John White
 9Harvestview Place
 Fairy Hill
 NSW 2470

12 April 2013

Dear Sir or Madam

I am a resident, not only of NSW but specifically of the Northern Rivers area.

I am deeply disturbed by the havoc that coal mining has had on areas such as the formally beautiful and productive Hunter Valley. Now we are looking at similar hazards threatening the Northern rivers which again is very productive farming land. If we continue to take up large tracts of all of this fantastic farming land we risk many thins:

1 Loss forever of good farm land. Even CSG mining requires large areas of land for the laying of pipe lines, tracks and roads, large numbers of drill pads, and other necessary infrastructure such as compressors; this makes much conventional farming impossible because of obstacles to say nothing of the loss of useable soil, and the inability to move/use equipment.

2 There is the possible requirement of pumping water out of aquifers near the surface for use in the mining operation, thus reducing available water now and into the future, increasing the drawdown on the Great Artesian Basin, and reducing the available water in large areas of our country for the use of farming and the supply of water to many small towns which are not lucky enough to have regular rainfalls as happens in many coastal areas. Even in this area only 60k from the coast can at times be very dry, rain water tanks run empty and require filling by tanker, but they have to fill up in towns where the river is running low or the local dam is near empty; this is a situation which can only be impacted by a CSG mining industry.

3 There is the problem of fugitive gas (mainly methane) emissions directly to the atmosphere from leakage of pipes and equipment, fracture of strata in the ground allowing seepage.

4 There is the problem of the excess water from the coal seams which is not able to be pumped back into the seams at the conclusion of the process, what to do with it in the interim period, the problem of extra chemicals added to the water for the drilling/extractions process apart from the chemicals which are naturally present when it exits the seam. Many of these chemicals can be injurious to animal and human life. What happens if large amounts of these chemicals end up in valuable farming soil, or in the aquifers supplying houses, farms and towns? Or if they enter creeks and rivers and thus can be entering town water mains, and later be affecting aquiculture in coastal areas.

5 What about the danger of water from upper aquifers migrating down to coal seams when there pressure of gas and water is reduced, thus reducing the available water such as from the G.A.B.

6. What about the danger from other gases in the csg product (other than the methane) - these can be nasty. One example is radon, which is radioactive. It may decompose fairly quickly (short half-life) but it does produce other radioactive solid by-products. There any many reports of inhabitants

of gas mining areas with various forms of ill health which are largely ignored or glossed over by the powers that be. What about any possible dangers from the by-products of the burning gases which exit the boreholes via flares. These are luminous yellow flames and are not totally combusting the gas into carbon dioxide and water but will leave many gaseous by-products

It has been suggested that a 2km exclusion zone be placed around residential areas. As it stands this is no protection for small groups of dwellings in rural areas or indeed of single dwellings such as farmhouses. Do not they deserve equal consideration to urban areas? Exclusion must apply to any human habitation. Exclusion zones have been recommended for vineyards and horse studs. There are many MORE important areas worthy of such exclusion zones.

There is no mention of protection of our catchment areas (already the gas industry has set up drill boreholes close to rivers) with real danger to water supplies to towns, or to aquaculture areas. All activity must be far removed from any catchment area (i.e. creeks and rivers).

The whole industry has been allowed/encouraged to forge ahead without satisfactory early investigations being done - i.e. baseline testing on water quality, water availability e.g. bore depth, air quality, baseline health surveys, etc.

There must be a moratorium put on the industry in NSW in order that we do not lose our food supplies, water supplies, our air quality, health, and quality of life.

John White

David Penn
15 Second Ave
Epping NSW 2121

10 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir,

I am a resident of Sydney and thus I am concerned that CSG drilling in the Sydney water catchment may possibly lead to contamination of the city's water supply. The precautionary principal would dictate that no activity should be allowed that has the potential to jeopardise the water security of four million people.

- The prohibition of drilling within 2 kilometers of dwellings is welcome, but it only protects residents against concentrated emissions at the wellhead. It does not protect against more widespread threats such as groundwater contamination and subsidence. The CSIRO has published research that CSG extraction will lower the water table by tens of meters to hundreds of meters; depending on the geology of an area this can lead to subsidence.
- Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone is a bad idea. This could lead mining interests to pressure councils by offering inducements and foster corruption. This clause should be deleted.
- Because of the potential of CSG extraction to contaminate freshwater aquifers, exclusion zones should apply to drinking water catchments across NSW. Exclusion zones should also apply to catchments that are the headwaters of significant natural areas.
- This SEPP amendment should include the extraction of all unconventional gas, not just coal seam gas.

Yours sincerely,

David Penn

srlop - O'FARRELL'S 'MEASURES' ON CSG

From: Gregory Frawley <gregfrawley@bigpond.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/19/2013 9:50 AM
Subject: O'FARRELL'S 'MEASURES' ON CSG
CC: pac pac <pac@pac.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Minister for Planning, PAC etc,
without prejudice and in the public interest

REFERENCE- RESPONSE TO O'FARRELLS CRISIS MANAGEMENT MEASURES ON AGL-CSG

The O'Farrell Government measures are transparent - they have no genuine substance and provide opportunities for the proponent AGL-CSG to side step them. They clearly indicate that politicians are not reading critical information about proposals with key decision makers lacking qualifications and real knowledge of potential impacts.

Please forward this email as a submission on CSG - so kind of you to position the deadline date in the middle of the school holidays thus limiting the community responses - it seems to be a tradition of the department of planning to strategically spend more time on selecting the best date to limit responses than on reading or understanding credible environmental and health studies.

Reference: Submission responding to O'Farrells's CSG measures

The absolute **lack of scientific integrity** in AGL-CSG documents prepared by 'contracted consultants' were accepted by government ministers and departments, clearly influenced in ways the general public can only imagine. There are no consequences for these consultants who deliberately omit credible scientific data, include suspect data, misrepresent and massage information into seemingly non-threatening and comfortable dilutions.

Positioning of '**proponent receptive staff**' in planning, minerals, health and ministerial offices further grease the passage for the slippery proponent AGL-CSG to slip through unchallenged by statutory authorities who are paid to protect the public interest.

It was only the **community reaction** of 3000 submissions which forced O'Farrell to scramble and come up with a bunch of ideas which have not been thought through at any level.

The concept of a **2 kilometre exclusion zone** is welcome only as an interim measure as part of a moratorium. Unfortunately it has not been thought through and is essentially a political reaction to community pressure. It has no scientific or environmental basis, no connection to diverse locations with unique site-specific geology, hydrology, catchments, environmental characteristics, health issues, multiple land use, prime agricultural land use, established urban and rural communities and air quality characteristics.

Could you please forward the documents supporting the 2 kilometre exclusion zone ? They probably don't exist - it was a decision made on the run - a typical crisis management decision made by politicians who have not studied the original AGL-CSG documents.

The **EPA became totally guttless** in 2003 when it supported the development of the toxic, offensive and hazardous Capral aluminium plant in the middle of 10 housing estates. The EPA has lost credibility in our community and is staffed by unqualified 'experts' who follow political instructions.

Who is the Chief Scientist, what are his/her qualifications, career history and who pays the salary?

Without comprehensive, independent and scientific hydrology studies your **Aquifer Interference Policy** will simply become another political and business lobbyist for AGL-CSG. You guys are just making this stuff up as you go along. You are not thinking it through.

Banning BTEX chemicals is great but who will monitor - AGL-CSG? Please send me your copy of the BTEX chemicals.

Fines don't deter mining companies - they are small change for AGL-CSG who have a billion dollar budget to push their project through. And who will police their practices.

These 6 measures appear to be written by AGL-CSG consultants - a bit like Ma and Pa Kettle in the farm contest - they

are not serious, they are not credible and will be seen by the majority of your constituents as a smoke screen to camouflage the continued push to get the project up and running. The AGL-CSG Camden Expansion will never happen.

AGL-CSG have proposed an expansion that compromises every individuals lifestyle in South Western Sydney. If politicians don't get serious about this then the electorate will punish them at the next election. The issue is presently a sleeping giant having a nap.

I can actually tell which politicians have not read the AGL-CSG documentation - and you're one of them, along with Patterson, the Cabinet and the Premier.

Take a close look at the make up of the AGL Community Consultation Committee. Both Fred Anderson, who is no longer a Camden Councillor, and Diane Gordon should be removed and replaced by residents who can genuinely represent the serious concerns expressed in the 3000 plus submissions.

I'm still waiting for a published copy of the 3000 plus submissions opposing AGL-CSG, which I requested through PAC.

AGL-CSG are slippery operators in bed with a slippery government - so it looks like more hard work for the community who can no longer trust all levels of government to act in the public interest.

AGL-CSG have fooled O'Farrell through their paid up subscribers in Hartcher, EPA, Mining Resources, Planning etc who have all failed to protect the interests of the greater good of residents in South Western Sydney

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THIS SUBMISSION

regards
greg frawley
secretary, narellan action group

From: Norma Daisley <nkd@tpg.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 4:32 pm
Subject: Coal Seam Gas mining

I would urge Barry O'Farrell to honour his pre-election promise to put a stop to coal seam gas mining in NSW.

CSG mining will destroy our beautiful state and country. We need food more than gas. We need to retain our agricultural land.

I hope you all have watched the American film "Gasland". It shows the destruction of the land and people due to CSG.

I also watched 4 Corners on the ABC recently. What a terrible legacy CSG is leaving. It's so sad to see a farmer in tears due to Greed.

Norma Daisley
Mosman NSW

Juen VanHand
548 Barrington East Rd
Barrington NSW 2422
April 10, 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

As you can see, I am a resident of the Gloucester region in NSW. I live on the banks of the beautiful Barrington River, which along with the Gloucester and Avon rivers form the main water supply to the whole Barrington, Gloucester, Wingham and Taree rural communities.

Without reliable and safe water, these communities will die. I am most concerned about the CSG mining operations that are proposed for our region. The Liberal-National Government promised us at the last elections that we “will ensure that mining can’t occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee”.

The current SEPP draft amendment needs to be strengthened to safeguard my community and many other areas in NSW against coal seam gas and other destructive mining.

The exclusion zone of 2 kms of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a good start to protection, but does not go far enough to really protect our most valuable resource, our water supply, and the land which grows the food we eat, and the beautiful natural places that nurture our souls.

The “opt out” clause that allows councils to override the 2 kms exclusion zone of the amendment is a travesty, and must be removed. The risk of corruption and heavy lobbying by powerful industry interests is inevitable. This clause **MUST BE REMOVED**

We need this draft to ensure that the health of our communities and environment is protected from coal and unconventional gas mining. There is nothing in the proposed amendment to the SEPP to protect our water, air, health and rural industries.

I would like to see a moratorium placed on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.

No CSG extraction should be allowed in any water catchment areas in NSW. These should be automatically designated exclusion zones.

Productive agricultural farmland has a high need to be included in these exclusion zones.

The exclusion zone should also include protection for our public lands including high conservation value land, land bordering on national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.

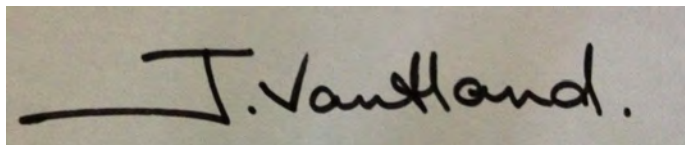
No provision has been made to monitor the fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure such as compressor stations. The Health of our communities must be protected now.

There is a high potential for fragmentation of critical industry groups such as horse studs and vineyards as an example, if CSG activities are permitted in areas where they operate. The amendment should prohibit CSG or other mining development to take place in these areas.

The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. I would like to see this expanded to include all unconventional gas.

The government has a responsibility to the people who will be living in these areas in decades to come. Will there be a future for our grandchildren, a future that has health, clean water, good quality food and air as a fundamental right.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "J. VanHand." with a period at the end.

Juen VanHand

srlup - The SEPP amendment

From: Andrew Gaines <andrew.gaines@alliance4swb.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 5:49 PM
Subject: The SEPP amendment

Andrew Gaines
 43 Artarmon Road
 Willoughby NSW 2068
 4 April 2103

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 Sydney 2001

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

Dear Mr. Keary,

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

I suggest that skilled long-term future planning takes account of the big picture as well as local details. Big picture, both global warming and ocean acidification are all too real, and there is reason to suppose that both are induced by CO2 emissions.

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

Although there are obvious local reasons to restrict the expansion of coal mining and coal seam gas extraction, including

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

- Depleting and introducing toxins into aquifers,
- Producing long-term damage to the surface features of agricultural land
- The health effects on communities
- Damage the Great Barrier Reef as export facilities are expanded,

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the global effects of continuing to expand fossil fuel use should be taken into account as well.

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This summer Australia recorded record-breaking temperatures in many locations. These are not isolated incidents or natural variation. The CSIRO predicts that much worse will come as a result of global warming. The fires and floods are part of a global pattern of increasing extreme weather events that has been chronicled by the reinsurer Munich Re since the 1970s. These events affect local economies.

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Trends based on such facts do not describe future 'risks'. They describe future certainties. The global pattern, directly affecting Australia, is that both floods and drought will get worse.

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

On the basis of water use alone the government should simply stop expansion of coal and fracking. Australia currently exports food, so obviously we are producing more than we need. However, this comes at the cost of a drawdown in water availability as well as soil quality. The water issues will be made much worse by allowing expansion of coal and fracking, and we have no guarantee that Australia will itself have food security in the future. As you know, the Murray Darling is already problematic.

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I suggest that you take these features into account in your considerations.

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

I am an independent researcher into the systemic changes required to transition to an ecologically viable society. I am committed to the wellbeing of coming generations. I would like to think that you care about their wellbeing as well.

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->
Sincerely,
<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->
Andrew Gaines
<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->
<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->
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<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

srlup - increased safeguards re CSG & mining

From: Ivan & Wendy Ivanusec <wendyivanusec@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 6:50 PM
Subject: increased safeguards re CSG & mining

Sir

In response to your invitation for submissions on 2km exclusion zones, please accept my following statement as a personal submission.

The mining and gas industry still has access to the vast majority of NSW, including sensitive natural areas. The proposed 2km exclusion zone around residential areas, horse studs and vineyards will not deliver much needed protection for drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places. I urge the government to enact stronger safeguards. I am appalled at the prospect of a massive gas field in the Pilliga Forest, more than 100 gas wells near Gloucester and destructive open cut mines in the heart of Leard Forest. Now is the time to enact binding protections for our rural communities, prime agricultural land and iconic natural places still under threat.

Cheers ... Wendy :)
19 Lilly Pilly Place,
Noosaville, Qld 4566
Tel: (07) 5449 0671

srlup - CSG Gas Regulations

From: Alan Carpenter <Alan.Carpenter@amcor.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 3:30 PM
Subject: CSG Gas Regulations
CC: "office@premier.nsw.gov.au" <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, "office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au" <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

Good Afternoon :

In regards to the proposed amendments to CSG regulations myself & others I know applauded the NSW State Governments 2km exclusion zone from residential areas & see this as a step in the right direction.

However it is of the utmost importance for further protection of our health, drinking water, air quality, agricultural & environmental areas be implemented ASAP.

The current SEPP amendments should be strengthened to address the overwhelming majority of community concerns that the destructive CSG & mining company operations have on our health, drinking water, air quality, agricultural & environmental areas thank you.

Alan Carpenter
11 Hudson Place
Ingleburn NSW
2565

Regards:

Alan Carpenter

Inventory Controller

Ph: (02) 9609 0230

Mob: 0411 766 620

Fax: (02) 9609 4561

Cameron's Transport

Alan.Carpenter@amcor.com.au

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srlup - CSG submission

From: Yuki Schofield <yukischofield@yahoo.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 3:34 PM
Subject: CSG submission

Janet Schofield
6/10A Church St
Randwick NSW
2031

4 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Randwick NSW and welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

Amendments to the mining SEPP should protect the state's key water tables, our productive agricultural land and important native habitats. There has been a lack of independent investigation into the effects of CSG mining to the health of the surrounding communities, and the health of the waterways and native flora and fauna of the region.

Drilling close to important water catchment areas could be catastrophic for such a water poor country as Australia. Not to mention the millions of litres of water that is used in CSG extraction.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect our water catchments, native habitats, precious farming areas and the health of the surrounding communities.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Schofield

web yukidesigns.com.au
mobile 0420 394 349

srlup - Coal Seam Gas Mining

From: "Vanda Grabowski" <mykoalas@bigpond.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 3:43 PM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas Mining
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure and
 To Premier Barry O'Farrell and Planning Minister Brad Hazard
 GPO Box 39
 Sydney 2001

FROM: Wanda Grabowski and Shirley McRae, 52 Poole Road, Glass House Mountains, Qld, 4518.

As residents of Queensland we are concerned about Coal Seam Gas Mining in this state as well as in New South Wales. We are keen environmentalists and much of our time is devoted to the sustainability of Australia's native flora and fauna. We believe it is our duty as Australian's to comment on the proposed policy.

People across NSW and QLD are calling for the protection of local communities from the polluting, high-risk CSG industry. The NSW government responded with a plan to amend the mining SEPP to set controls and a buffer zone to stop the development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters (horse studs and vineyards).

We believe this is a step in the right direction to protect urban areas that are zoned as residential and critical rural industries. The change however, does not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. Allowing CSG development to occur within built-up areas that may not be zoned as 'residential', such as Fullerton Cove where 86 families live within a 2km radius of the proposed drilling, is extremely risky.

The SEPP does not take into account any impacts of CSG mining operations within water catchment areas, including in Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Special Areas. The Apex CSG project in the Illawarra escarpment will be drilling close to three key water catchments including the SCA Woronora Special Area, which provides water for the people of Sydney and Wollongong.

To extract CSG, millions of litres of water are pumped from deep beneath the earth, threatening ancient aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water.

We strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee".

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to "opt out" of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. While empowering local councils to have a say on development is inherently a good idea, this clause would allow gas companies to circumvent the safeguards by pressuring councils to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment.

Key points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment:

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the

damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.

2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.

The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

With thanks Wanda Grabowski and Shirley McRae

From: Richard Zoeller <rz@netpower.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
CC: "office@premier.nsw.gov.au " <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzar...
Date: 4/4/2013 3:48 pm
Subject: CSG SEPP

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the Coal Seam Gas SEPP.

As a resident of Erskineville, I welcome the decision to place a 2 km exclusion zone around residential "areas".

However, I do not consider this is a serious or adequate enough response to the proposals to extract coal seam gas.

The current SEPP does not consider our water supply (especially underground aquifers and artesian basins), conservation zonings and agricultural and pastoral lands.

These criteria are essential for the production of our food and the enjoyment of our natural heritage.

The effects of CSG drilling and development are not yet clear, as no reasonable baseline has been established. Until its effects are clearly established, no approvals for csg should proceed and the SEPP should support this.

The ability of local authorities to opt out of the SEPP conditions makes it toothless.

I urge you to consider these issues in developing amendments.

Richard Zoeller
41/2 Coulson St
Erskineville 2043

srlup - Submission re coal seam gas industry SEPP draft amendment

From: CT3 <ct3@pmcmedical.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 3:57 PM
Subject: Submission re coal seam gas industry SEPP draft amendment
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

Submission made by :
 Dr Chris Tuckfield
 198 Oxford Street
 Paddington NSW 2021
 4th April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy,
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO BOX 39
 Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a medical practitioner of many years experience and with numerous patients including both urban dwellers and some country property owners. I am deeply concerned by the risks to water quality and human health generally, including risks to important agricultural land and water catchments posed by this industry.

I am pleased to have an opportunity to comment on the proposed new SEPP draft amendment for the CSG industry , including a proposed 2km exclusion zone around urban areas and certain land uses.

This is a step in the right direction but does not go nearly far enough. I am disappointed that promises made before the last election as regards water catchments in particular, are not being kept.

I do not believe the prospective profits to shareholders in these companies justify the very serious risks to water quality and our farmlands .

The people of NSW both city and country are essentially in revolt about this industry and its time that the government took heed of serious scientific arguments against this industry anywhere near farmland, urban areas and water catchments.

With climate change an accepted scientific reality the importance of viable ongoing food producing areas is paramount and any risk to the water we need for human health and agricultural production is unacceptable for the purposes of private profit for what many including myself and the people I speak to regard as an unnecessary and short term exploitative CSG industry.

The previously assumed carbon benefits of CSG have not been established to outweigh the harms and the fugitive methane emissions now scientifically recognised make the whole enterprise highly questionable.

It is already conclusively determined that the world cannot burn more than a fraction of the existing known fossil fuel reserves without serious risk of passing two and potentially four degrees of average temperature rise which is catastrophic. We dont need to go looking for new sources of fossil fuels.

The people of NSW dont need this industry.

Please increase the buffer zone to at least 5-10 km and more if any continuous geological strata or other significant features occur .

Ban CSG outright in all agricultural lands and all water catchment areas and national parks and nature reserves.

These rules should be made binding on all council areas and without the ability of certain councils to opt out of the regime.

The policy should apply to all projects not already substantially commenced and existing projects in water

catchments should be terminated.

There needs to be a moratorium on all CSG activities until an independent and thorough scientific study of the health and environmental impacts is carried out.

All approvals, if any, should clearly state that the proponent assumes all financial risk in relation to future government controls related to carbon emissions or environmental impacts

Please consider these comments in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Chris Tuckfield

Dr Chris Tuckfield
198 Oxford Street
Paddington NSW 2021
Australia
Tel 61-2-93610333
Fax 61-2-93316163
ct3@pmcmedical.com

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4 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

Coal Seam Gas

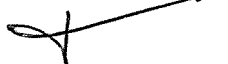
I am a resident of Victoria but have family living in New South Wales and I visit and stay in New South Wales on a regular basis and know the State very well.

In relation to the proposed amendment to the relevant State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP.

Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.

I object to coal seam gas exploration in Australia.

Yours faithfully



Ms G Devine
97 Station Street
Burwood 3125

srup - Submission on : Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

From: "David" <deckstein@iprimus.com.au>
To: <srup@planning.nsw.gov.au>, <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 7:04 PM
Subject: Submission on : Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

David Eckstein
PO Box 1049
Rozelle NSW 2039

Attn: Dept of Planning and Infrastructure and the Minister of Planning, Hon Brad Hazzard

Regarding proposed SEPP amendments relating to Coal Seam Gas exclusion:

- A proposed 2 km exclusion zone is an arbitrary approach with no basis in science -this is very poor policy and is clearly designed as a placate, with no relevance to water catchments, ground water systems or airsheds.
- Current government policy around CSG completely ignores the Precautionary Principle an adopted component of the five key heads of consideration for Ecologically Sustainable Development. We do not have anywhere near enough science-based information about the potential impacts of CSG exploration and extraction upon ground water and catchment health to allow the scale of growth of CSG development that you are essentially rubber stamping with this lame policy approach.
- Come on DP& I and Minister Hazard – you can do better than this simplistic response (out of sight out of mind) -where is the intergrity in government policy development?

David Eckstein
02 9810 8671

srlup - Comments to proposed amendments to NSW CSG policy

From: nicolas mialaret <n.mialaret@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 7:47 PM
Subject: Comments to proposed amendments to NSW CSG policy

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 Sydney 2001
 Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Bondi Beach. As many other people in NSW, I am calling for the protection of local communities from the polluting, high-risk CSG industry.

The NSW government has responded with a plan to amend the mining SEPP to set controls and a buffer zone to stop the development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters (horse studs and vineyards). This is a step in the right direction to protect urban areas that are zoned as residential and critical rural industries.

But, the change does not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester. There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. Allowing CSG development to occur within built-up areas that may not be zoned as 'residential', such as Fullerton Cove where 86 families live within a 2km radius of the proposed drilling, is extremely risky.

The SEPP does not take into account any impacts of CSG mining operations within water catchment areas, including in Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Special Areas. The Apex CSG project in the Illawarra escarpment will be drilling close to three key water catchments including the SCA Woronora Special Area, which provides water for the people of Sydney and Wollongong.

To extract CSG, millions of litres of water are pumped from deep beneath the earth, threatening ancient aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to "opt out" of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. While empowering local councils to have a say on development is inherently a good idea, this clause would allow gas companies to circumvent the safeguards by pressuring councils to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment.

Key points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment:

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.

6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

Kind regards,

--

Nicolas Mialaret

Cell: +614 0304 6995

David Penn
15 Second Ave
Epping NSW 2121

10 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir,

I am a resident of Sydney and thus I am concerned that CSG drilling in the Sydney water catchment may possibly lead to contamination of the city's water supply. The precautionary principal would dictate that no activity should be allowed that has the potential to jeopardise the water security of four million people.

- The prohibition of drilling within 2 kilometers of dwellings is welcome, but it only protects residents against concentrated emissions at the wellhead. It does not protect against more widespread threats such as groundwater contamination and subsidence. The CSIRO has published research that CSG extraction will lower the water table by tens of meters to hundreds of meters; depending on the geology of an area this can lead to subsidence.
- Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone is a bad idea. This could lead mining interests to pressure councils by offering inducements and foster corruption. This clause should be deleted.
- Because of the potential of CSG extraction to contaminate freshwater aquifers, exclusion zones should apply to drinking water catchments across NSW. Exclusion zones should also apply to catchments that are the headwaters of significant natural areas.
- This SEPP amendment should include the extraction of all unconventional gas, not just coal seam gas.

Yours sincerely,

David Penn

srlup - Submission SEPP amendments Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

From: Dennis James <dwjames78@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 12:38 PM
Subject: Submission SEPP amendments Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

Reference:

State Environmental Planning Policy
 (Mining, Petroleum Production and
 Extractive Industries) Amendment
 (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013 State Environmental Planning
 Policy

(Mining, Petroleum Production and
 Extractive Industries) Amendment
 (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The following are amendments which should be included in the final
 Policy Document.

1. The SEPP amendments should be amended to include a 2km buffer
 around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it
 is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new
 prohibited areas.
3. The Policy guidelines should include exclusions for all
 identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive
 environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining
 and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale
 gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been
 approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval,
 and have not yet commenced operation.
- 6.. That environmental studies be conducted by independent
 scientists and the results of these be transparently made available
 to all interested bodies.
7. Independent studies be paid for by the proponent.

Best Regards
 Dennis
 Scone Australia

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

From: Dan the ecology man <newcastlecriticalmass@yahoo.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 8:37 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.
CC: "office@premier.nsw.gov.au" <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, "office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au" <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

To :

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 Sydney 2001

The amendment includes a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas and critical industry clusters. While this is a significant step in the right direction, it fails to take into account the need for further environmental protections that safeguard our drinking water, our health and our conservation and agricultural lands.

The need for safeguards against coal seam gas and other destructive mining and how the current SEPP draft amendment could be strengthened.

People across NSW are calling for the protection of local communities from the polluting, high-risk CSG industry. The NSW government has responded with a plan to amend the mining SEPP to set controls and a buffer zone to stop the development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters (horse studs and vineyards).

This is a step in the right direction to protect urban areas that are zoned as residential and critical rural industries. But, the change does not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. Allowing CSG development to occur within built-up areas that may not be zoned as 'residential', such as Fullerton Cove where 86 families live within a 2km radius of the proposed drilling, is extremely risky.

The SEPP does not take into account any impacts of CSG mining operations within water catchment areas, including in Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Special Areas. The Apex CSG project in the Illawarra escarpment will be drilling close to three key water catchments including the SCA Woronora Special Area, which provides water for the people of Sydney and Wollongong.

To extract CSG, millions of litres of water are pumped from deep beneath the earth, threatening ancient aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water. I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration

permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee"^[1]. The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas. Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives

local councils the ability to “opt out” of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. While empowering local councils to have a say on development is inherently a good idea, this clause would allow gas companies to circumvent the safeguards by pressuring councils to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment

Key points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council “opt out” clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

Daniel Endicott

106 Robert St, Islington, 49616582

Co-ordinator of BikeLoveCorral.blogspot.com

Community volunteers for a Safe, Non-discriminatory, Happy, Healthy, Sustainable active transport network for cyclists and 3 wheeled mobility electric/assist devices. (and not killing people with cancerous car exhaust fumes)

srlup - Submission to Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: Ifeanna T <ifeanna@yahoo.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 8:37 PM
Subject: Submission to Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013
CC: Barry O'Farrell <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

The Director Strategic Regional Policy

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney 2001

Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to submit my comments to the above amendment. While this is a significant step in the right direction, it fails to take into account the need for further environmental protections that safeguard our drinking water, our health and our conservation and agricultural lands.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester. The change does not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee".

Yours sincerely,

Ifeanna Tooth
 108 Jersey Rd
 Woollahra NSW 2025
 4 April 2013

srlup - Submission - on the 2km exclusion zones for CSGs

From: <quoll_fnq@optusnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 8:25 PM
Subject: Submission - on the 2km exclusion zones for CSGs
CC: <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>, <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>

Submission - on the 2km exclusion zones for CSGs

Sean Corrigan
2/9 Lae Street
Trinity Beach QLD

April 4th 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have experience in Environmental Management and have a deep concern for the rapid expansion of CSGs in Australia.

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy. Though i live in QLD, i have keen and strong support for the people of NSW and its Natural Environment.

Here the facts and information which i support:

Background:

People across NSW are calling for the protection of local communities from the polluting, high-risk CSG industry. The NSW government has responded with a plan to amend the mining SEPP to set controls and a buffer zone to stop the development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters (horse studs and vineyards).

This is a step in the right direction to protect urban areas that are zoned as residential and critical rural industries. But, the change does not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the

community of Gloucester.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. Allowing CSG development to occur within built-up areas that may not be zoned as 'residential', such as Fullerton Cove where 86 families live within a 2km radius of the proposed drilling, is extremely risky.

The SEPP does not take into account any impacts of CSG mining operations within water catchment areas, including in Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Special Areas. The Apex CSG project in the Illawarra escarpment will be drilling close to three key water catchments including the SCA Woronora Special Area, which provides water for the people of Sydney and Wollongong.

To extract CSG, millions of litres of water are pumped from deep beneath the earth, threatening ancient aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee".

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to "opt out" of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. While empowering local councils to have a say on development is inherently a good idea, this clause would allow gas companies to circumvent the safeguards by pressuring councils to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment.

Key points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment:

- Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
- There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry

interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.

- Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
- Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
- In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
- Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
- Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
- The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
- The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
- The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

Yours sincerely,
Sean Corrigan

srlup - CSG SEPP draft amendment

From: <lenreynolds1@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>, <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 7:57 PM
Subject: CSG SEPP draft amendment

Dear Premier and Minister

Re CSG draft amendments

I wish to voice my concerns of the amendment on these key issues

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas

and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.

6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

Yours Sincerely

Wayne Reynolds

18 Yanderra Ave

Bangor, 2234

NSW

srlup - Please reconsider the future for ALL AUSTRALIANS and Our Future

From: Sonia Fletcher <abundanceherbs@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 12:42 PM
Subject: Please reconsider the future for ALL AUSTRALIANS and Our Future

The Director Strategic Regional Policy,
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am emailing you today, as a very concerned Australian citizen...

Regarding:

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The NSW government has released a draft of proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones

The proposed changes provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters.

However, they do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow councils to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Please reconsider the future for ALL AUSTRALIANS and Our Future
 Thank you for your time and consideration
 Yours Sincerely
 Sonia Fletcher

From: CONOS <conos2@optusnet.com.au>
To: Coal Seam Gas Explorations <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 12:44 pm
Subject: Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

The Director Strategic Regional Policy,
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001

RE: Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment
on CSG Exclusion Zones

Dear Sir/Madam

We wish to support the following,

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Sincerely,
R. Oehlman
President, Conservation of North Ocean Shores

srlup - Coal seam Gas exclusion Zone 2013-Wollombi Valley- Lower Hunter

From: "Allyson Hoft" <orders@wollombiwines.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 1:36 PM
Subject: Coal seam Gas exclusion Zone 2013-Wollombi Valley- Lower Hunter

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing regarding the Public Consultation Draft relating to Amendment of State Environmental Planning Policy, (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extraction Industries)(Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

We are a small vineyard adjacent to the Village of Wollombi. We established the vineyard in 1994. It is of GREAT concern to us that the proposed exclusion zone do not apply to the Village of Wollombi and surrounds.

It seems reasonable that Wollombi should be protected on purely Historical value, and from our point of view an intrusion into the landscape would be devastating given the vastness of area suitable for Coal Seam Gas Extraction and other destructive mining.

Surely the small area around Wollombi and it's Valley is worthy of some protection!

We have a great need for further environmental protection that safeguards our drinking water for (human, agriculture and animal) our health, conservation, agriculture lands not forgetting our future generations.

Yours sincerely

Allyson & Peter hoft.
Wollombi Wines,
Wollombi Road,
Wollombi,
N.S.W 2325

www.wollombiwines.com.au

srlup - Fwd: Submission regarding CSG exclusion zones

From: Amber Rutko <breeze.bha@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 1:37 PM
Subject: Fwd: Submission regarding CSG exclusion zones

Submission regarding CSG exclusion Zones

1. The Clarence Valley in The Northern Rivers NSW should be included in the exclusion zones for Coal Seam Gas mining as this is a sensitive environmental area where flooding is a normal occurrence.
2. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
4. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
5. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
6. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Amber Rutkowski
3 Cockateil Crescent
GULMARRAD NSW 2463

srlup - mining SEPP amendment

From: barrie griffiths <bgriffiths@harboursat.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>, <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 4:49 PM
Subject: mining SEPP amendment

The Director, Strategic Regional Policy

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39, Sydney 2001

By email to: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au

cc: Premier Barry O'Farrell: office@premier.nsw.gov.au, and

Planning Minister Brad Hazzard: office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

We write to urge that additional protections be incorporated into this amendment.

The exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction on public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes, in drinking water catchments, and prime agricultural land.

The provision allowing Councils to “opt out” should be removed.

Barrie Griffiths.

North East Forest Alliance, Hunter Region.

srlup - CSG exclusion zones

From: "Bill Greenville" <wgreenville@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 1:28 PM
Subject: CSG exclusion zones

I wish to submit that the following points be included in the CSG exclusion zones

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2 km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards

Bill Greenville

Regards draft and proposed amendments: State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Dear members of the State Environmental Planning Policy working committee,

I urge you in the strongest terms to **ensure exclusion zones for all rural farmland areas and communities.**

The **amendment protections do not go far enough.**

The proposed amendments make no provision for **protection of farmlands, rural properties and communities and therefore their inhabitants.**

Further, the proposed amendments **fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.**

Farmland as well as the natural environment is fragile. The Australian Government has a responsibility to protect **food growing lands** and **all natural lands and therefore the living species dependent on these terrains.**

My Illawarra community stands in peaceful opposition to the planning of reckless coal seam gas drilling. Reckless because of the evidence of threats:

- to water systems and supplies; consider alone the use of 750 different chemicals and compounds used in fracking
- leaking methane
- Impact on health
- above ground footprint and related seismic activity.

Australian CSG companies are not held accountable for CSG hazard testing and clearance.

Please ensure **mandatory CSG hazard testing and clearance** for drilling to go ahead in Australia.

It is estimated that 60-80% of unconventional gas wells drilled in the next decade will require fracking which everybody knows is a detrimental process directly linked to many serious environmental incidents including water contamination, earthquakes and fire. **Fracking has been already banned in France and other countries, including parts of the USA.**

WE say NO TO CSG drilling.

Thank you

Georgina Cameron

(Teacher, Educator and environmentalist)

Thursday, 18 April 2013

State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries)
(Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Dear members of the State Environmental Planning Policy working committee,

Regards draft and proposed amendments :

Other shortcomings of the amendments are-

- The amendments enable councils to exclude an area from the protections.
- At the same time councils are denied the right to include additional areas for protection.
- Of concern also is that the amendments fail to cover other types of unconventional gas.
- Furthermore, coal mining, the single biggest contributor to climate change producing a third of the world's carbon pollution is ignored.

I urge you in the strongest terms to make the **amendment protections far more rigorous to:**

- ensure exclusion zones for all rural farmland areas and rural properties and communities and therefore their inhabitants
- provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

My Illawarra community stands in peaceful opposition to the planning of reckless coal seam gas drilling. WE say NO TO all CSG drilling.

Thank you

Georgina Cameron

(Teacher, Educator and environmentalist)

11th April 2013

Cathlyn Hudson
215 Peregrine Road
BILLYWILLINGA NSW 2795

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident and property owner within the Bathurst area & welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed SEPP draft amendment policy with the view to widening its amendments in order to strengthen its application.

As a resident who lives on a rural property in an area of prime agricultural production, I am strongly opposed to having any form of Coal Seam Gas (CSG) development or other mining on such important and productive land. A recent Fairfax poll found that 75 percent of NSW residents, across all political parties, strongly oppose coal seam gas development on agricultural land. This figure is indicative of the widespread opposition that exists, in both rural and urban areas, to any expansion of this industry in our state. One of the reasons for this being the dramatic impact, coal seam gas mining, has on water ways, as recently shown on ABC's Four Corners report of 1/4/13, concerning the leaching of water from the coal seams to allow the flow of gas to be tapped.

Whilst the proposed amendment is a positive move towards the protection of urban areas that are zoned as residential and critical rural industries, it falls short of protecting our key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land. The potential damage CSG will have upon the Artesian Basin will be detrimental beyond thought, to our drought prone country. It also fails to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

As yet we remain unaware of the health impacts this type of industry has upon individuals, but already we are aware of the enormous environmental degradation that occurs as a result of this type of mining, due to the experience of other rural communities across Australia, especially in Queensland, where the process is now affecting the availability of water on properties in close proximity to the extraction zones.

The process of CSG extraction has been instrumental in contaminating huge underground water resources, resulting in large quantities of contaminated waste water. To allow an industry dependent on such enormous levels of water to be active in rural areas, many of whom are still drought declared and other areas still recovering from extensive drought periods, is destructive and negligent. Rural areas cannot risk their precious water resources being lost and damaged, especially in an age where it is apparent that our weather patterns are resulting in hotter and drier periods

where our water resources are further stressed. It is also vital that our water resources are protected in order to maintain their priority usage for food production and not for the priority of mining interests.

Since 1891 The Great Artesian Basin water yield has been dropping significantly. One third of bores which flowed when drilled have now ceased to flow without the aid of pumps to bring water to the surface. Conservation of this essential asset needs to be maintained responsibly. If rivers and streams become dry in times of drought, the base river flow which normally runs out of the artesian basin will not be able to refill the river because the groundwater has dropped too low.

It is imperative that the SEPP draft legislation include further amendments to protect productive agricultural land and drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, a promise made by Premier O'Farrell in 2009. The draft SEPP also needs to include protection for our state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. It is the state government's responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

I call on the government to include these strict amendments in the form of exclusion zones around agricultural lands and landscapes of both conservation and environmental sensitivity, including that where our native wildlife is vulnerable or threatened. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Cathlyn Hudson', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Cathlyn Hudson

srup - Not sure if i have sent this to the right address. Please forward to the correct one if this wrong. Thanks

From: danielle husband <danigreenfrog@hotmail.com>
To: "information@planning.nsw.gov.au" <information@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 10:48 PM
Subject: Not sure if i have sent this to the right address. Please forward to the correct one if this wrong. Thanks

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Submission to the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I support the protection of zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters provided by the proposed SEPP amendments. However, these amendments fall a long way short of addressing the concerns of community groups and residents across New South Wales.

1. These amendments do not provide protection for other important rural industries, sensitive environmental areas and drinking water catchments. In addition they do nothing to protect rural residents living outside zoned residential areas on farms and other rural properties. I would like to see the amendments in the SEPP broadened to implement exclusion zones prohibiting unconventional gas development as follows:

- 2km exclusion zones around all residential dwellings;
- Exclusion zones with a 2km buffer around all identified food producing lands, important rural industries, drinking water catchments and sensitive environmental areas (including equine and viticulture Critical Industry Clusters).

2. The proposed amendments do not apply to other forms of unconventional gas such as shale gas and tight gas which use similar technologies to coal seam gas and lead to the industrialisation of similarly large areas of land. The production of shale and tight gas is likely to have similar environmental and health impacts to coal seam gas extraction and should therefore be included in the SEPP provisions, particularly as exploration for these types of gas has already commenced in parts of NSW (e.g. tight gas in the Northern Rivers region) and may increase in the future. Any exclusion zones should apply to all forms of unconventional gas as per point one above.

3. The amendments as they currently stand allow local council's to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection. I would like to see the provision for councils to veto the SEPP provisions removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.

4. The exclusion zones in the proposed SEPP amendments do not apply to coal mining despite the rapid and continuing encroachment of large open cut coal mines on residential areas, high conservation value lands, and agricultural lands and within drinking water catchments in many parts of

NSW. Given the well documented health and environmental impacts of coal mining, I Alliance would like to see the amendments in the SEPP broadened to include exclusion zones from coal mine development as follows:

- 2km exclusion zones around all residential dwellings;
- Exclusion zones with a 2km buffer around all identified food producing lands, important rural industries, drinking water catchments and sensitive environmental areas (including equine and viticulture Critical Industry Clusters).

5. As they are currently proposed the SEPP amendments only apply to projects that have not yet been approved. This means that certain high impacts projects that have already been approved will not be subject to these provisions. I believe that the SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Cr Simon Clough (Lismore City Council) I acknowledge this material supplied by Lock the Gate Alliance.

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
SYDNEY NSW 2001
srup@planning.nsw.gov.au
GPO Box 39

John Kaye
PO Box 36
Denman NSW 232

11th April 2013

Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The exclusion of Coal Seam Gas exploration and production within Critical Industry Clusters is a positive step forward.

1. This policy should be made into a regulation so that it can be enforced.

The current maps for Equine & Viticulture CIC's are not complete. The upper reaches of several tributaries of the Goulburn River fail to qualify for CIC equine status. These areas are part of the rain and water catchment for farming land downstream that supply the viticulture and equine clusters downstream. These catchment areas should become part of that same cluster.

2. Water catchment areas for critical industry clusters need to be included in the exclusion zones.

Other food or fibre industries should be included in critical industry clusters of their own. Dairying, beef cattle, wool and lamb production, orchards and the vast areas of land already identified as Strategic Agricultural Land (SAL).

3. Other food or fibre industries should be included in critical industry clusters of their own
4. CSG pipelines and infrastructure should be subject to the same exclusions.

The exclusions need to be extended to other extractive industries, in particular coal mining. Coal mining, its contribution to air pollution, its impact on productive agricultural land and its dumping of salt into the rivers is compromising the food and fibre industries of the Upper Hunter Valley. The cumulative impact of all the mines within the CIC's has not been fully addressed.

5. Coal mines should be included in the exclusion zones.

This policy needs to apply to all of NSW without exemptions granted by local government. Councils should not be given the power to remove areas from an exclusion zone to allow CSG development.

6. There should be no exemptions granted for councils.

John George Kaye

srlup - Submission on Draft amendment to SEPP (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coals Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: "Justine Maunsell" <justine.maunsell@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/15/2013 8:38 PM
Subject: Submission on Draft amendment to SEPP (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coals Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

To the Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

I would like to make a submission on the Draft amendment to the SEPP (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coals Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013. I request that this late submission be considered, particularly given the short consultation period of 3 weeks.

- I am supportive of the 2km buffer proposed in the draft SEPP; however it **should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings** (regardless of zoning). It is inequitable for the 2km buffer to only apply to residential zoned areas. Communities in regional and rural NSW should be afforded the same protection and assurance as their urban counterparts.
- **The right to veto the 2km buffer for local councils should be removed.** This significantly weakens the integrity of the SEPP and leaves Councils open to lobbying and influence from the coal seam gas industry. Councils should be able to list new prohibited areas if desired.
- **The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.** It is inadequate that protection only be afforded to the equine and viticulture industry. The horseracing/gambling industry and alcohol industry should not be given more protection than other agricultural industries and the environment.
- **The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction** including shale gas and tight gas.
- **The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.**
- **The coal seam gas exploration and extraction assessment and approval process should be amended to require consideration of the cumulative impacts of numerous CSG wells.** This is an extremely concerning failure in the current process (which is likely to lead to a 'death by a thousand cuts').

Thankyou for the opportunity to provide comment. I look forward to seeing the results of the consultation process.

Justine Maunsell
 B. Env Science

srlup - Fwd: against coal seam gas in Newcastle's drinking water supply!

From: lowerhunter
To: srlup
Date: 4/11/2013 4:10 PM
Subject: Fwd: against coal seam gas in Newcastle's drinking water supply!

Hi

It appears that this submission maybe for the SEPP amendment that is on exhibition at the present time.

Regards

Vicki Adams
Hunter Office 49042700

>>> Vera Hunter <verahunt@gmail.com> 11/04/2013 13:43 >>>
From Vera Hunter
Gosford
NSW 2250

The proposed changes provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters.

However, they do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow councils to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining.

The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.

The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.

The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you

srlup - re Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

From: Marianne <thejohnsons@ipstarmail.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/14/2013 11:55 PM
Subject: re Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing this submission in the hope that there are still some rational people in decision making positions in Government. I and my husband moved from Sydney to the glorious area of Gloucester to start an agri-food business and a change of lifestyle. We invested in property that we have developed for the future security of our family and contribute to regional development. To our dismay the region has been invaded by extraction industries of coal and CSG. If the proposed CSG wells for the Gloucester region go ahead it will be one of the worst policy decisions of any government. This region has been predicted as part of the future food bowl for Australia. Gloucester is a source of pure clean and reliable water and is climate advantaged. It has suitable land for intensive horticulture and market garden development. There is a developing market garden industry which in the future can easily outstrip economic returns from mining. Food production is a sustainable regional development model. Mining is short term, destructive and not a solution for sustainable regional development. Gloucester and the mid north coast need to be protected for the present and future food production for Australia. I was community representative on the Gloucester CSG CCC but resigned after 4 years when it became clear that the science was being ignored and that AGL was manipulating the CCC to further its own interests. If this project is allowed to continue then the decision makers will be as culpable as AGL knowing that the risks are genuine and the probability of aquifer and other environmental damage high. I am urging that policy be strengthened and that...

1. CSG mining not proceed in the Gloucester region or any other potential food producing area
2. That no CSG extraction be undertaken near any water sources, rivers & creeks
3. That no CSG be allowed near residential and farming properties or where it can impact on farming
4. That no CSG fracking be allowed in complex geological areas or near water courses and aquifers

If appropriate and the opportunity made available, I would be willing to give a comprehensive presentation about the negative impacts of the extraction industry on food security. Food production and mining are not compatible. They are competing for the same resources of land, water and skilled labour. It is time for statesman-like decisions to protect food, water, people. Please listen to people who are being directly affected by the mining industries. The evidence is emerging from experts which is supporting those concerned about the impacts of CSG and further coal mining. This is not a NIMBY exercise...there are strong, rational economic and scientific modelling behind the opposition to CSG industry in this region.

Marianne Johnson
 2142 Gloucester Tops Rd
 Gloucester NSW 2422
 02 65583191 0458 261629
thejohnsons@ipstarmail.com.au

Email FROM: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Email TO: The Director Strategic Regional Policy Department of Planning and Infrastructure GPO Box 39 Sydney 2001

11 April 2013

RE:

DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (MINING, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES) (COAL SEAM GAS EXCLUSION ZONES) 2013.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of the ACT with professional knowledge and work experience in land use planning, environmental assessment, land management and environmental management. I am also undertaking tertiary studies in Integrated Water Resource Management at the Masters level through the University of Queensland.

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

My current understanding is the NSW government has prepared a plan to amend the mining SEPP to set controls and a buffer zone to stop the development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters (such as horse studs and vineyards).

Whilst this is a step in the right direction to protect urban areas that are zoned as residential and critical rural industries the amendment does not address impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land. Furthermore it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

The following is noted:

- The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester. **Has the gate closed for environmental assessment for these projects ? or is there a mechanism to protect the impact on ground water in other legislation?**
- There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. Allowing CSG development to occur within built-up areas that may not be zoned as 'residential', such as Fullerton Cove where 86 families live within a 2km radius of the proposed drilling, is considered risky. **As such it would be prudent for environmental human health to be assessed.**
- The SEPP does not take into account any impacts of CSG mining operations within water catchment areas, including in Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Special Areas. It is

understood that the Apex CSG project in the Illawarra escarpment will be drilling close to three key water catchments including the SCA Woronora Special Area, which provides water for the people of Sydney and Wollongong. **In the absence of its inclusion under the SEPP what will trigger environmental assessment of this project to ensure protection of Sydney's water supply ?**

- The draft SEPP also does not seem to take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. CSG extraction is generally inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas. **The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales.**
- Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to “opt out” of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. Empowering local councils to have a say on development is inherently a good idea. **This clause could however allow gas companies to circumvent the safeguards by pressuring councils to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment.**

My relatively limited understanding is that to extract CSG, millions of litres of water are pumped from deep beneath the earth, threatening ancient aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water. Australian ground water, according to a CSIRO seminar I recently attended (10 April), it takes 1000s – perhaps millions of years to recharge. Already NSW/Qld have over allocated surface water, which is inextricably linked to groundwater, and I am concerned that without adequate environmental investigation (beyond the 2km radius of urban development) the cumulative impact of water extracted from CSG and other water resource users is not being adequately assessed.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, but think there should be more consideration given to the impacts – if any – on:

- state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land,
- the cumulative impacts on water resources
- ecological services, including ground water ecology.

Key points, considerations and conclusions of this submission:

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council “opt out” clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. **This clause should be removed.**
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. **The government through amendment**

to the SEPP should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.

4. The risks to water resources and public health from CSG do not appear to be adequately addressed. **The government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.**
5. **In order to protect Sydney's critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.**
6. **Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas, travelling stock routes (on the basis of their historic protection and "accidental" conservation of natural biodiversity) and high productive agricultural land.**
7. **Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.**
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. **The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure.**
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. **All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.**

I trust this submission is read and interpreted as constructive and look forward to your considered opinion.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

[Redacted Title]

Master of Environmental Engineering Management

srlup - Re Submission on the Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

From: "Merri Gill" <merrigill@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 3:18 PM
Subject: Re Submission on the Draft NSW Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

Dear Sir,

I am deeply concerned that the amendments under this draft do not go far enough to protect food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

- 1 The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
- 2 The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
- 3 The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands. Water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
- 4 The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
- 5 The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval and have not yet commenced operation.

It is very unfair that zoned residential areas are protected while country homes are not.

Yours Sincerely,

Merri Gill

Nicola Chirlian
"Tallawang"
Cattle Creek Road
WILLOW TREE NSW
2339
12/4/2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: CSG SEPP Submission

As a concerned voting citizen of NSW, as a beef cattle producer from the Liverpool Plains, and as the Convenor of the Gunnedah Basin Health Impact Assessment Project, I am writing in regard to the NSW Governments proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Protection Plan to set controls and a buffer zone to stop development of Coal Seam Gas within 2 kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters (horse studs and vineyards).

I appreciate that your proposed amendment is progress in the right direction for these areas and industries. But the changes do not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and do nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including the large coal mines proposed for our area by Shenua and BHP.

Neither do the proposed amendments apply to projects such as in the Pilliga Forest, which are already through the approval stage, with environmental damage well documented to date. Other areas which are not zoned as 'residential' but nevertheless have significant population density, will continue to be at risk. However, residents of rural areas will continue to be placed at significant risk of the short and long term environmental, economic and health impacts of coal seam gas mining, as evidence is being provided by the residents of Tara, Queensland. Residential residents, although "excluded" by the proposal, will still be placed at risk if damage to the aquifers and environment occur, as has been well documented by American sources.

I would strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee"¹.

¹ Source: www.australiancoalalliance.com/Information/Woodbury%20Park%20Rally.mov.

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to “opt out” of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. While empowering local councils to have a say on development, this clause would also allow gas companies to circumvent the safeguards by pressuring councils to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment.

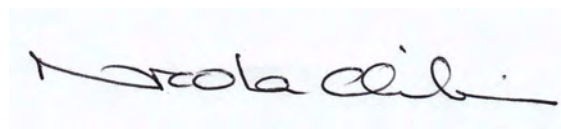
Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, I think the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District. The Gunnedah Basin Health Impact Assessment Project is currently seeking funding for an extensive project to cover baselines of known health issues, and baseline levels and quality of water, air and noise, and we would welcome your Government's involvement in this project as previously discussed (Discussions with Minister Skinner October 2012, and yourself). As is, the amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.

Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive (not just “prime”) agricultural land.

The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal seams. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored for in parts of the Northern Rivers region and may well be the next level of exploration in my area. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss my submission further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Chirlian', written on a light blue background.

NICOLA CHIRLIAN.

srlup - Draft NSW government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

From: Robert Keane <bombakeane@yahoo.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 1:13 PM
Subject: Draft NSW government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones

Robert John Keane
16, Nimbin St.,
The Channon,
NSW 2480

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make the following submission to the Draft Government SEPP Amendment on CSG Exclusion Zones:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer zone around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coalmining and all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval and have not yet commenced operation

Yours Sincerely Robert Keane

srlup - Submission on the NSW SEPP amendment on CSG exclusion zones

From: rohan langford <rohan@realartworks.org>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 1:00 PM
Subject: Submission on the NSW SEPP amendment on CSG exclusion zones

To Whom It May Concern,

I was glad to hear when the NSW government decided to place some restrictions on CSG mining in NSW. However I am making this submission because I believe that the current restrictions do not go far enough to protecting our most important resources in this state - Water, Farm Land and People.

My suggested amendments are as follows.

Firstly, the 2 km buffer zones offer no protection to people in rural areas. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings. The provisions should also include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas. Without these amendments there is little protection for people in rural areas. Even if they are in a town centre, their local water and food supplies could be contaminated because they reside outside of the 2km buffer zone of their town centre.

Secondly, if you are going to allow local councils the right to veto these exclusion zones then it should be matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas. Otherwise this right to veto for local councils should be removed.

Thirdly the SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas. If we are going to do this process then we should do it properly and not waste more tax payers money having to do this over and over again for other mining practices in the future. We know these other forms of mining will be used and offer similar risks to the coal seam gas mining practices, so they should also be included in the plan. Not mentioning them is an insult to the intelligence of NSW residents.

Lastly the SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation. If these are really supposed to be safety measures, they should be followed by all. Not just newcomers. As 4 corners pointed out companies such as AGL have not even been monitoring their emissions, so we need to bring practices of all companies in line with the safety standards imposed on new operations. To do otherwise just doesn't make sense and is putting the health of our water, land and people at risk.

I sincerely hope that you implement all of these recommendations. Otherwise the people of NSW will have to live with the consequences of an unsafe industry for many years after the gas has left our shores. Fresh water is something I have taken for granted living in NSW and I want nothing more than to make sure that my children can live healthy lives not having to worry about contamination of their water, food and land from mining.

Yours Sincerely,
Rohan Langford

srlup - Submission regarding CSG exclusion zones

From: Ross Kemp <roscok1@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 1:29 PM
Subject: Submission regarding CSG exclusion zones

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Ross Kemp
1 Chausson Place
CRANE BROOK NSW

Submission re

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

To whom it may concern,

The SEPP needed amendment re this issue but those proposed do not appear to be well thought out or consistent. The reasons for the need for these protections from CSG are genuine (water, health, subsidence) deserve to be dealt with in a more logical way and comprehensive way so that they actually have the effect desired.

- The exclusion amendments should be widened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings— as rural dwellings are often not in rural residential zonings or villages, but isolated. Neither these residents nor their watersources should be impacted against their wishes.
- The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
- The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas in their LGAs.
- The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas. Impacts from mining and mining waste are serious and often longterm, for health and water, and are not restricted to coal, as many areas are now facing a gold and/or antimony rush, not only coal and gas.
- The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you for considering these points.

Sharyn Munro

JOHN AND KAY GILLAN

PO BOX 386
27 HASSELL STREET
MOREE
N S W 2400

Home Phone 0267 522724
Fax No 0267 522108
email: jkgillan@bigpond.net.au



The Director Strategic Regional Policy,
Department of Planning and Infrastructure,
GPO Box 39,
SYDNEY..NSW...2001.

11th April, 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to inform you that we are **very much opposed** to Coal Seam Gas coming into our area.

We realize that you have heard all arguments for and against this proposal, but after seeing the devastation in Queensland shown on 4 Corners and Video of Northern Rivers "Lock the Gate" in all conscious we would not wish this on our greatest enemy let alone leave the aftermath for our children and grandchildren.

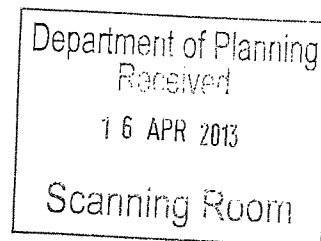
The Gas Companies will be gone and we will have to live in the area and deal with the results left by some greedy Politicians and \$Billion gas companies who have bled the country dry and destroying it in the process by contaminating our water, polluting our air and leaving enormous amounts of salt on the ground, and then moved on.

When all this has happened, who will be left to pay taxes when the land production is nil?

Yours faithfully,

John Gillan

Margaret Kay Gillan.



srlup - Mining SEPP Submission

From: "Steve Quinn" <steve@safetystep.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 1:25 PM
Subject: Mining SEPP Submission

RE: Proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

I wish you to accept and consider my submission to the SEPP

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you

Steve Quinn
110 Chelmsford Road
Rock Valley
NSW 2480

srlup - coal seam gas

From: "Sylvia Robyn" <sylviarobyn@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 1:15 PM
Subject: coal seam gas

Thank you for the opportunity to oppose all CSG activities. A 2 km exclusion zone is insufficient to protect our land, our water, our future. There is insufficient scientific data to satisfy me that CSG is necessary and beneficial. Our future has got to be in renewable energy sources.

Please listen to the people of NSW; we are the voters!!

Sylvia David,

Bundanoon, NSW

srlup - Submission regarding CSG exclusion zones

From: <tucvillage@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/11/2013 1:04 PM
Subject: Submission regarding CSG exclusion zones

1. The Clarence Valley in The Northern Rivers NSW should be included in the exclusion zones for Coal Seam Gas mining as this is a sensitive environmental area where flooding is a normal occurrence.
2. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
3. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
4. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
5. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
6. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Richard Wilkinson
12 Cordini Street
TUCABIA NSW 2462

srup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: [REDACTED]
To: <srup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 1:05 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Do not publish my email address with this submission,

thank you

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/lock-the-gate-alliance-inc/final-week-have-your-say-on-the-nsw-govts-proposed-csg-exclusion-zones/482574075147998>

Suggested feedback points to include in your submission:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: James Whelan <james@thechangeagency.org>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/5/2013 1:28 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing concerning the proposed amendment to the SEPP relating to CSG exclusion zones. I am a property holder in the Monkerai Valley, a rural community in the headwaters of the Karuah River. The valley lies about 15kms south west of the township of Gloucester. Our entire valley lies within PEL476, held by Pangaea Resources Pty Ltd. Since the local community learnt that our Pangaea has approval to explore for CSG in the valley, there has been a high level of concern and opposition. Not one property holder in our valley supports CSG exploration or extraction and we strongly support exclusion of all activities relating to CSG from our valley.

As I understand it, the intention of this amendment is to determine which areas in NSW will be excluded from CSG exploration and extraction. The media debate has focused on development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters (horse studs and vineyards). This very narrow approach to exclusion zones will leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, including our valley.

I urge the NSW Government to consider broadening the scope of the amendment to include primary production areas such as ours where fertile, productive land would potentially be displaced by CSG drills and associated equipment. I have seen these operations first hand and know just how large a footprint they occupy. The amendment should also exclude from CSG development significant catchments that serve both ecological and urban water supply benefits. Our stretch of the Karuah is pristine. We regularly see platypus. This is no place for polluting industrial activities such as CSG drilling.

People in our local community have expressed the strongest opposition to the CSG industry. On both roads into our valley, we have erected signs that declare the valley a mining-free area. The signs were erected after a public meeting at which every single property owner endorsed a motion that opposes mining in the valley.

Sincerely

Dr James Whelan

Monkerai Community Council
0431 150 928

srlup - CSG Regulations

From: Kim Donohue <kimdis@optusnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/4/2013 3:29 PM
Subject: CSG Regulations

The New South Wales government has proposed an amendment to the relevant State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) in response to a public outcry over coal seam gas (CSG) exploration and production near residential areas.

The amendment includes a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas and critical industry clusters. While this is a significant step in the right direction, it fails to take into account the need for further environmental protections that safeguard our drinking water, our health and our conservation and agricultural lands.

It is time for our political leaders to listen to the people and enact binding protections for our rural communities, prime agricultural land and iconic natural places still under threat.

srlup - Fwd: Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

From: Mike & Bev Smith <mbtarnee@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 9:38 AM
Subject: Fwd: Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones

SUBMISSION

To: The Department of Planning and Investment

RE: COAL SEAM GAS EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION IN NSW EXCLUSION ZONES

We live and farm in PEL470 and I wish to make a submission to the Department of Planning and Investment regarding the 2km exclusion zone around CSG developments for residential areas and critical clusters. Rural dwellings are not included in the 2km unless you are classified as a critical cluster (horse stud or vineyard). Why are our homes, businesses and livelihoods not included and given the same amount of protection?

Minister for Planning, Brad Hazzard, told media recently that residents in Sydney and towns have the right to feel safe in their own homes in regards to encroaching mining activities.

If so, shouldn't all communities and families across rural New South Wales have the same basic democratic right? If one community or industry is at risk, does that not mean any community or existing industry may be placed at RISK?

Why should a family in Campbelltown feel safe in their own home but not a family living in rural NSW. Families at Bellata, Gurley, Terry Hie Hie - What do you say to these families and communities? Are they considered collateral damage?

Coal seam gas exploration and production should be at the very least be **2,000** metres from ALL homes and gardens.

Protect all strategic agricultural land with 2 kilometre buffers – so important to the health, environment and economy of the Barwon Electorate & Shires.

Map and protect critical industry clusters with 2 kilometre buffers – so important to the health, environment and economy of the Barwon Electorate & Shires.

Regarding the Petroleum (Onshore) Act NSW 1991, it is the addition of one zero – extending the buffer from 200 metres to 2000 metres.

The natural variations of boundaries within aquifers, water catchments and between soil types is not addressed with this linear measurement. However, it is a positive start to bringing balance back and certainty to land use, existing agricultural industries, the environment and the health of communities of New South Wales.

The gateway process has many flaws, it must be amended before any exploration commences. Core hole drilling, fracking, flaring, pilot production, CSG gathering and pipeline infrastructure, for example, are all allowed under exploration, based only on desktop studies written by the Miners.

Please take action before our (and NSW's, and Australia's) valuable food producing land, livelihoods and health is lost to mining.

Yours sincerely
 Beverly A Smith

srlup - Fwd: Draft Amendment to SEPP 2013

From: Ministerial Correspondence Unit
To: srlup
Date: 4/10/2013 11:37 AM
Subject: Fwd: Draft Amendment to SEPP 2013

Hi Meagan,

We're receiving quite a bit of e-mail traffic from the MO which in most instances has been sent to the srlup e-mail or by hard copy to the Department. We'll try our best to ensure there is minimal duplication by sending on material that has not already been received by other means.

Richard Hammond.

>>> Fiona Forrest <spring_3@bigpond.com> 4/8/2013 5:45 pm >>>

I'm writting in response to the proposed Draft Amendment to the State Environment Planning Policy 2013.

As a resident of the Blue Mountains I'm concerned that these proposed new guidelines do not mean much. We are surrounded by National parks all at a greater distance than 2km. The area is a world Heritage site and therefore it would be sacrilege to mine anywhere in this area. The future of Tourism in N.S.W. depends on keeping the area pristine and a draw card for overseas travellers.

LLikewise in other National Parks, warer catchment areas, and productive agricultural land. What is more important than maintaining the health of these lands for the production of good quality water, air and farming.

What is money worth if you don't have these basic necessities. You as our elected member should take some responsibility to protect these vital commodities.

I would like to see greater controls put on these large companies, greater restrictions put in place. Queensland is an example where Nature is out of balance, and the cost to the people and the State is extreme. It doesn't pay in the end, and who wants the outcome.

I don't.

Yours Fiona Forrest 52 Fitzgerald Street, Katoomba. 2780. (spring_3@bigpond.com.)

Narelle Jarvis
195 Pinchin Road
Goolmangar 2480

narellerhonda@gmail.com
02 66293423

4th April 2013

**The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Coal Seam Gas residential exclusion zone

I am a resident of Goolmangar in rural northern New South Wales and I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy. I have been actively opposed to the Coal Seam Gas industry.

My comments and concerns on the SEPP draft amendment:

- The plan of the NSW government to amend the mining SEPP to create a buffer zone and stricter controls to stop the development of Coal Seam Gas mining within 2 kilometres of residential areas and other areas such as horse studs and vineyards is a step in the right direction to protect residential and critical rural industries. However the proposed change does not protect our water supplies; does not protect conservation areas and does not protect agricultural farms. The damage made by other forms of mining operations, including large coal mines has not been addressed.
- The government approval for the development of CSG mining near Gloucester and the Pilliga Forest should be retracted. These are prime agriculture and conservation areas. The area of Gloucester is water catchment for the surrounding communities.
- Millions of litres of water are used for CSG extraction, which threatens aquifers and produces huge quantities of contaminated waste water.
- Not enough research and investigation into health effects of CSG mining has been carried out. A 2kilometre radius is too risky.
- Our natural heritage and cultural heritage need to be protected.
- All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid regulations that leave parts of the state at risk.
- Amendments to the SEPP need to protect drinking water catchments, as at Gloucester, from mining and gas developments. Premier O'Farrell promised in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee"

- Conservation areas and public land needs to be protected from mining and gas development. CSG mining does not regard the management of protected areas.
- The “opt out” amendment for local councils would give gas companies the opportunity to pressure to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected.
- Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
- All forms of unconventional gas mining should be included in the SEPP amendment, not just CSG.
- Our natural environment, flora and fauna need to be protected.
- CSG should be banned.

Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'NJarvis'.

Narelle Jarvis

srlup - Feedback

From: Cassie McLean-Smith <cassthechambermaid@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 11:51 AM
Subject: Feedback

The CSG & other mining associated industries are scary, not enough is known of the impacts, yet this is happening and there is no turning back. Your strategies are not enough. After watching documentaries such as Gasland and the like, as well as the many many cases of river and ground water contamination which have been publicised - how can you allow this to happen in Australia, in rich agricultural production areas? It is foolhardy to allow the short term gain of mining when the future of our land, people and way of life will be affected in the longterm. This industry is not safe nor is it to our long term benefit. We need to protect Australia so it may provide for us.

1. At the least, the SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
- 3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.**
- 4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.**
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards,

Cassandra McLean-Smith
NSW - Australian.

srlup - ATT: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

From: AnzacFrank <anzacfrank@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 11:51 AM
Subject: ATT: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

ATT: The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

WE WISH TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING SUBMISSIONS RE: CSG exclusion zones:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards,

Frank

Australia.

srlop - Submission on the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: susan ambler <susnles@bigpond.com>
To: <srlop@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 11:20 AM
Subject: Submission on the Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

Susan Ambler
 71 Cascade St.
 Katoomba 2780

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains and also a property owner in the Southern Highlands. I appreciate the opportunity to make a submission regarding amendments to State Environmental policies on mining. My submission is to be found below.

Submission on the

Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

I submit that;

The exclusion zones should be extended to include all agricultural lands in NSW and should apply to all forms of mining.

The exclusion zones must also protect the states waterways, and the states drinking water and should be extended to all water catchment and holding areas and should apply to all forms of mining.

All forms of mining endanger the health of people, the environment and agricultural resources, they should be excluded from areas of environmental significance and anywhere that people live or farm also.

Coal Seam Gas extraction and other forms of unconventional Gas extraction have major health effects for people and the environment, there should be a complete moratorium on these forms of mining until local health bodies have been able to test the health outcomes of these new forms of mining.

Thank you
 Susan Ambler

srlup - Comments on Amendments to SEPP

From: "Krinny" <krinny@skymesh.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 11:15 AM
Subject: Comments on Amendments to SEPP

ATTENT: Director Regional Strategic Policy

I would like to make the following comments in regards to draft amendments to SEPP (mining, petroleum products and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

1. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining. The impacts of coal mining on human health (dust, noise) and the environment (water and air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, aquifer destruction) are far greater than the impacts of coal seam gas and thus the exclusions should also apply to mining.

2. The provisions should include exclusions for coal mining near food producing areas, water catchments for drinking supply and sensitive environmental areas. Food growing is of course a more critical industry than horses and viticulture. (I think anyone would struggle to argue otherwise). I don't feel coal seam gas needs to be excluded from these zones if good environmental protections are in place but coal mining should be excluded from these areas for certain.

3. The exclusions should also apply to coal mines venting coal seam gas as a waste product. Why are coal mines allow to continue such a wasteful practice in areas close to residences when coal seam gas companies are not and they are using the gas for beneficial reuse?? The venting of coal seam gas as a waste product by coal mines needs to be banned outright.

3. Local Councils should be given the power to list new prohibited areas.

4. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Kind regards

Karinda Stone

404 Limeburners Creek Road

Clarence Town

NSW 2321

Ph: 02 4996 3367

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

From: Alison Cook <pyxcie@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 11:13 AM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

To The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

The proposed changes provide welcome protection for zoned residential areas and mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters.

However, they do nothing to protect those living on farms and rural properties and fail to provide protection for other vital food growing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas. This is insane and inhuman, since when did wine and horseracing take priority over fresh food and safe clean water!!?? ALL OF THESE THINGS SHOULD NOT BE POISONED!!

Other shortcomings of these amendments are that they allow councils to exempt an area from the protections, while failing to give councils the right to include additional areas for protection; they don't cover other types of unconventional gas; and they don't cover coal mining.

Please consider these suggestions:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.

5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

And please consider just how much profits can be enjoyed in a poisoned state full of sick and dying animals and people? In a state where its too poisonous for plants to grow? And stop trying to poison our fresh water so we'll all start to love those ridiculously useless and expensive desalination plants.....

We are blessed caretakers of this beautiful home, not mindless bullies.

Please dont allow our home to be poisoned.

Sincerely,
Alison Cook

From: Jeremy White <jmwhite@iinet.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 11:12 am
Subject: re SEPP amendment.

To.
The Director Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

Dear director, I am writing to you to voice my concerns about CSG mining and environmental protections.

The announcement of a 2km buffer zone in some areas is a welcome start, but falls well short of the protections needed.

I believe the 2km buffer zone should be immediately extended to ALL residences. Not just for some elite properties. It is after all, an admission

of serious concern by the NSW Govt, and should be extended state wide. Horse racing and wine making are not "essential" industries.

Food production definitely is. Please protect it.

I believe all food producing land, water catchment areas and sensitive environmental areas should all be immediately excluded from CSG mining.

Climate change is happening faster than previously predicted and all food producing land needs to be protected COMPLETELY.

Fugitive emissions from CSG will only make climate change worse and quicker! Doubly compounding the food security issue.

These exclusions need to apply to all unconventional mining, including shale, tight sands and coal seam gas.

These exclusions should also apply to coal, gold, antimony and all other forms of mining.

The SEPP amendments need to apply all projects, even those that have been approved and not met their approval conditions.

regards
Jeremy White

From: "Gerald McCalden" <mccalden@tpg.com.au>
To: <srup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 11:12 am
Subject: Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Controls

From:

Dr Gerald McCalden
594 Glen Rd
Craven NSW 2422

10th April 2013

To:

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Director:

As long-standing resident of the Stroud Gloucester Valley, I am pleased to respond to your invitation to comment on the proposed extensions to the controls exercised over the CSG Industry in NSW.

Having an academic background in Earth Sciences gives me some insight into the environmental and economic dangers which are likely to ensue from uncontrolled exploitation of this energy source. In addition, having been a member of AGL's Gloucester CCC for some years, I have been able to learn at first hand how relentlessly the CSG Industry is prepared to pursue its goals, through the dissemination of public misinformation (propaganda), and the preparation of flawed Social, Economic, and Environmental Impact Statements.

I call on the Government:

(1) To suspend all CSG activities, whether approved or not, until a thorough and fully independent assessment of all environmental aspects has been undertaken: and

(2) To declare a policy whereby societal assets such as health, wellbeing, land and water resources, and economic sustainability, are given absolute precedence over short-term extractive industries.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Gerald McCalden.

srlup - Submission for the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy

From: Ivy Leighton <ivydjarda@yahoo.com.au>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 10:49 AM
Subject: Submission for the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy

To the Director of Strategic Regional Policy,

I am writing in regards to the proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

I welcome these changes and the protection for zoned residential areas, mapped critical viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters it aims to provide, however they do not go far enough to protect the people and land of NSW.

I call on you to include the following amendments:

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around *all* residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed *unless* it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Thank you for your work to ensure that the people and land of NSW is protected from the risks of coal seam gas mining.

Yours sincerely,
Ivy Young

srlup - Coal seam gas residential exclusion zones.

From: "Kate McDonald" <katemcdonald1@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 10:43 AM
Subject: Coal seam gas residential exclusion zones.
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>

It is imperative that we learn from the mistakes in the United States and Queensland that have lead to water contamination and land degradation. The recent Four Corners report should be a wakeup call to all Australians.

We cannot let the short term gain from the sale of coal seam gas now destroy our water supply and agricultural land in the longer term. We should be focused on long term food security and health issues.

Kate McDonald
2 Gibb Place
Springwood NSW 2777
02-47515709

sr lup - Mining SEPP

From: Chris Slatter <chris@micorazon.com.au>
To: <sr lup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 9:48 AM
Subject: Mining SEPP

Dear Director

I live in a rural area and grow my own food. Many of my neighbours do the same and sell their produce at market.

When the water table is contaminated and/or dries up how will we feed ourselves? How will we pay for our children's education? How will we pay our rising electricity bills?

What jobs do you plan to furnish us with once our livelihood has been destroyed by out-of-control CSG corporations?

I believe that the SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.

In addition to that, the provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.

And lastly, the SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining, to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas and to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Regards,

--

C. Slatter

From: Jennifer Long <longj@hvgs.nsw.edu.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 9:45 am
Subject: proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) to implement CSG exclusion zones.

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Jennifer Long
1334 Dungog Road
WALLAROBBA NSW 2421

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From: Bruce Champion <bpchamp@tpg.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 9:01 pm
Subject: SUBMISSION: Proposed Amendments to Mining SEPP - CSG exclusion zones

My Submission:

It's a good idea to provide CSG exclusion zones around residential areas, wineries and thoroughbred racing areas BUT these are not the only areas needing protection.

1. What about residences that are not in residential areas such as farm residences - these need 2 km exclusion zones too.

2. There needs to be exclusion zones around ALL food-producing lands to protect the future of food production. Water catchments and sensitive environmental areas/conservation parks also need exclusion zones.

Protection of clean water and food production MUST take precedence over short-term CSG/coal \$\$\$

3. The SEPP amendments must also apply to CSG/coal projects that have not yet commenced operations, such as in the beautiful Gloucester valley, which is set for destruction by these short-sighted money-making projects.

sincerely,

Bruce Champion

srlup - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

From: Ryuji Carruthers <dharmagatehome@hotmail.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/9/2013 7:13 PM
Subject: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Moree and as a concerned citizen welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

I am concerned that the 2km exclusion zone around towns of 1000 people or more, although a step in the right direction, does not go far enough. This is because it does not adequately safeguard our natural environment and drinking water, nor our communities of people. Our beautiful natural environment is a finely tuned collection of ecological communities. Each species of plant and animal within such communities is highly dependent upon many other species for survival as well as quality of air, water and land being absolutely crucial. Already we have seen huge losses in the biodiversity as alarming numbers of species have become extinct and are rapidly becoming so. CSG uses dangerous and toxic chemicals that harm our native communities and threaten the fine balance of our planet. Continuing to mine coal is simply not an option if we are to reduce the levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere back to safe levels. For this to happen all the remaining coal reserves need to stay in the ground. There is no two ways about this - if we are to avoid climate catastrophe this is what we need to do.

I therefore do not support either of these industries, let alone their ruining our precious farming land and placing horrendous stress on our own communities of people for reasons that are well documented (detrimental health effects due to air pollution, sound pollution, as well in some cases, particularly with regard to CSG - water pollution). We do not really have a choice - we must put our money and resources into renewable energy and support that industry to grow as it already is. The writing is on the wall - we must heed it.

Yours sincerely,

Ryuji Carruthers
4/429 Boston St, Moree 2400
0431 374496

From: Allan Stomann <allanstomann@bigpond.com>
To: "srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au" <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
CC: "office@premier.nsw.gov.au" <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, "office@hazzard...
Date: 4/5/2013 7:22 pm
Subject: Coal Seam Gas amendment

To the Premier, the Hon Barry O'Farrell and the Planning Minister of NSW, the Hon Brad Hazzard.

Dear Sirs,

I would like to express my concern about Coal Seam Gas Mining in general and the proposed amendment to include a 2km exclusion zone around residential and critical industry clusters.

While this amendment is a step in the right direction, it fails to address the need for further environmental protections that safeguard our drinking water, our health and the conservation of agricultural lands and ground water for future generations.

Given that the Earth is reaching a critical point in terms of availability of good agricultural land that will sustain future generations, we must be good stewards of the resources we have. Once the land and groundwater are polluted we run the risk of not being able to restore it.

I am concerned that the CSG industry is racing ahead without proper safeguards, and that it may be doing irreparable damage.

Please do all that you can to protect our farmlands, our water catchment areas, our groundwater, and the environment we live in.

Good farming land needs to be protected from mining by law. The purity of our water supplies needs to be protected by law.

Please add an amendment to ensure that any new mining leases for CSG need to be agreed to by the community, and subject to very stringent criteria, which if broken would result in the loss of a license to mine for CSG, and closure of the plant.

I earnestly hope that you, as our representatives in the government, will do all that you can to ensure CSG mining is safe for everyone, before any further leases are issued, and that you place stringent controls on any current operations.

Yours faithfully
Katrina Stomann
14 Munro Street
North Sydney
NSW

Sent from my iPad

Andrew Berlach
380 The Scenic Road
Macmasters Beach NSW 2251
5th April 2013

Submission to Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

People across NSW are calling for the protection of local communities from the polluting, high-risk CSG industry. The NSW government has responded with a plan to amend the mining SEPP to set controls and a buffer zone to stop the development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters (horse studs and vineyards).

This is a step in the right direction to protect urban areas that are zoned as residential and critical rural industries. But, the change does not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. Allowing CSG development to occur within built-up areas that may not be zoned as 'residential', such as Fullerton Cove where 86 families live within a 2km radius of the proposed drilling, is extremely risky.

The SEPP does not take into account any impacts of CSG mining operations within water catchment areas, including in Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Special Areas. The Apex CSG project in the Illawarra escarpment will be drilling close to three key water catchments including the SCA Woronora Special Area, which provides water for the people of Sydney and Wollongong.

To extract CSG, millions of litres of water are pumped from deep beneath the earth, threatening ancient aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs,

no buts, a guarantee”¹.

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to “opt out” of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. While empowering local councils to have a say on development is inherently a good idea, this clause would allow gas companies to circumvent the safeguards by pressuring councils to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment.

Key points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment:

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council “opt out” clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.

¹ Source: www.australiancoalalliance.com/Information/Woodbury%20Park%20Rally.mov.

6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

srlup - GAS EXPLORATION

From: Siobhan Holmes <billandsiobhan@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/5/2013 2:38 PM
Subject: GAS EXPLORATION

Dear Sir,

Firstly thank you for doing SOMETHING about slowing down coal seam gas exploration.

But.....(there is always a 'but'!) really your action doesn't go anywhere near enough.

Firstly, all the 'shonky' approvals that HAVE gone through are apparently not involved in the restrictions now proposed.

Secondly, we honestly need urgent action NOW to stop ALL gas seam fracking and drilling, until a totally independent scientific team have thoroughly explored the long term consequences of this new technology.

My husband is a geotechnical engineering consultant; he tells me there is NO way to reverse contamination into the water tables once it has occurred. Of course you can try and clean up, but you CAN'T put it back the way it was.

All humans need - WATER, AIR AND FOOD.

This new the technology threatens all three of these needs !

Please listen before it is too late.

STOP COAL SEAM GAS EXTRACTION UNTIL SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION HAS SHOWN WHETHER - OR NOT - IT CAN HAPPEN SAFELY, WITHOUT DAMAGING OUR ENVIRONMENT.

After all, the gas being extracted (at such a cost to the environment) is not going to help the average Australian citizen; it is being sold to make a very few people wealthy. And they CANNOT fix up the mess they have created - the Australian citizen will again be left with trying to deal with the end result.

Of course I realise we are running out of oil (I have written many letters on that), BUT we need to face up to the fact that we are at the end of cheap energy. It is over. We now need to urgently swop over to sustainable clean energy. Nobody who has even scratched the surface of investigating this, believes that it will be easy. But it CAN be done, and we need to urgently start now, while we still have the use of cheap energy to restructure and rebuild a clean energy economy for the future.

How will you face your grandchildren if you do nothing ?

Yours faithfully,

Siobhan Holmes

srlup - Fw: Draft amendment to State Environment Planning policy

From: "Greg" <gdoepel@bigpond.net.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/12/2013 5:01 PM
Subject: Fw: Draft amendment to State Environment Planning policy

From: [Greg](#)
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2013 11:23 AM
To: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Draft amendment to State Environment Planning policy

srlup - CSG Regulations

From: Darrell Hilton <darrell@darrellhilton.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/04/2013 3:27 PM
Subject: CSG Regulations

The New South Wales government has proposed an amendment to the relevant State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) in response to a public outcry over coal seam gas (CSG) exploration and production near residential areas.

The amendment includes a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential areas and critical industry clusters. While this is a significant step in the right direction, it fails to take into account the need for further environmental protections that safeguard our drinking water, our health and our conservation and agricultural lands.

It is time for our political leaders to listen to the people and enact binding protections for our rural communities, prime agricultural land and iconic natural places still under threat.

From: Angela Lindstad <angelaflorida1@optusnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
CC: <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>, <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/04/2013 3:30 PM
Subject: Draft Amendment SEPP(mining,Petroleum Production& Extractive Industries)(Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones)

I submit that it is even more important to have exclusion zones around water catchments, agricultural land and rural dwellings.

It is unbelievable how crassly planning permission is given whenever something is dug out that is not food. The products of all mining increases the value of our dollar and creates a two tier economy and decreases the return of agricultural produce.

It is the responsibility of governments to protect people from harm. Not to increase the returns of overseas mining interests.

Planning involves thinking. It seems to me that very little of that is done.

Angela Lindstad

34 Downing St Epping 2121 NSW

srlup - Coal Seam Gas

From: "Adrian Watkins" <naturalhabitats@adam.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/04/2013 4:23 PM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas

I'm totally opposed to CSG development because of the dangers it poses to food growing, the depletion & pollution of underground water, the wrecking of the environment, particularly natural habitat clearance & the distress it causes to people.

Cheers

Adrian Watkins

Christa Schwoebel

134 Pacific Hwy
Kempsey 2440
02 – 6562 8250
christa@tsn.cc

2 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I congratulate the NSW government on setting more stringent controls and a buffer zone to stop the development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters. While this is a step in the right direction, the change does not cover impacts of CSG development on key water supplies and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations.

More and more Australians cannot drink the water from creeks or bores anymore. Drinking water has to be trucked in, usually at the expense of the local council and State Governments.

This has happened in the Macleay Valley in NSW where I live. Due to arsenic and antimony contamination, the water from the river could not be used for drinking anymore. For several years, Kempsey Shire Council carted drinking water to the village of Bellbrook. To my knowledge, the cost has not been recorded. While the company responsible for a spill from their mine was fined \$50,000, the NSW State Government paid \$700,000 for a water treatment plant. It seems that similar problems are experienced in other States.

The contamination is not only caused by on-going mining but also by abandoned ventures. The operators have disappeared, the jobs are gone, the contamination and pollution is left for many years to come and nobody is held responsible.

The primary concern of any government, should be to guarantee clean water, clean air and uncontaminated soil for everybody.

Instead, it seems, jobs and the economy are always declared to be top priority. Jobs in the mining industry are not for everybody, the resulting profits are taken by only very few. However, all of us, every single one is and will be effected now and in the long term by the pollution, devastation and contamination caused by mining.

Much stricter conditions must be applied to all mining licences. Operations and site remediations must be better regulated and monitored than they are now. Water catchments must be excluded from mining. I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009.

We can't drink gas nor eat coal, gold or money.

Regards
Christa Schwoebel

CC: Premier Barry O'Farrell and Planning Minister Brad Hazzard

Anne Hodgson
128 Eelah Road
MINDARIBBA NSW 2320

4th April, 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir / Madam,

I live in the Hunter Valley – one of New South Wales premier agricultural areas. I am sending this letter regarding the CSG.

I believe there is clear scientific evidence revealing Coal Seam Gas to be unsafe. The proposed amendment to the mining SEPP providing buffer zones to residential areas and critical industry clusters is a good step. However much greater protection really is required. There are numerous projects already through the approval stage such as the ones planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near Gloucester. These developments will directly impact prime agricultural land, critical biodiversity areas and old growth forests. These are impacts that NSW cannot afford.

Additionally, there have been no comprehensive investigations regarding the health impacts of CSG mining. In the Hunter Valley it has recently been revealed how damaging coal dust continues to impact residents of the valley – this is after decades of mining. Will we now repeat this behaviour by approving Coal Seam Gas mines without firstly completing thorough studies on the health impacts of this type of mining? I hope not!

Another point which cannot be ignored is the impact on water from CSG mining. Australia is the driest continent on the planet. We should not jeopardise our water catchments and aquifers by allowing the extraction of CSG. The risk is too great!

So, if the Liberal National Government wish to maintain the trust of NSW constituents and keep the promise made by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee" then the amendments to the SEPP really must be passed.

Yours faithfully

ANNE HODGSON

srlup - SEPP draft amendment submission:

From: Graeme <stageone@nrg.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/04/2013 10:04 PM
Subject: SEPP draft amendment submission:
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, Public Hazzard's Office Email <office@hazza...

Dear Sir,

I wish to make a submission to the *Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013*.

Key points I wish to make and associated recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment are as follows:

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->There is a risk of exploitation of the council “opt out” clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->3. <!--[endif]-->Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->4. <!--[endif]-->Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->5. <!--[endif]-->In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->6. <!--[endif]-->Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->7. <!--[endif]-->Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->8. <!--[endif]-->The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->9. <!--[endif]-->The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->10. <!--[endif]-->The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out

tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

Graeme Batterbury
Lillian Rock NSW 2480
ph: 02 6689 7098
m: 0413 613 690
e: stageone@nrq.com.au

srlup - Submission - Coal Seam Gas Planning

From: Irene Wheatley <irenewheatley@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>, <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzar...>
Date: 5/04/2013 9:13 AM
Subject: Submission - Coal Seam Gas Planning

From:
 Irene Wheatley
 PO Box 591
 Katoomba 2780.

irenewheatley@gmail.com

5 April 2013.

Dear Sirs

People across NSW are calling for the protection of local communities from the polluting, high-risk CSG industry. The NSW government has responded with a plan to amend the mining SEPP to set controls and a buffer zone to stop the development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters (horse studs and vineyards).

This is a step in the right direction to protect urban areas that are zoned as residential and critical rural industries. But, the change does not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. Allowing CSG development to occur within built-up areas that may not be zoned as 'residential', such as Fullerton Cove where 86 families live within a 2km radius of the proposed drilling, is extremely risky.

The SEPP does not take into account any impacts of CSG mining operations within water catchment areas, including in Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Special Areas. The Apex CSG project in the Illawarra escarpment will be drilling close to three key water catchments including the SCA Woronora Special Area, which provides water for the people of Sydney and Wollongong.

To extract CSG, millions of litres of water are pumped from deep beneath the earth, threatening ancient aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee"^[1].

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal

seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to “opt out” of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. While empowering local councils to have

[1] Source: www.australiancoalalliance.com/Information/Woodbury%20Park%20Rally.mov.

Yours respectfully

Irene Wheatley

--

srlup - Proposed guidelines for coal seam gas mining

From: Chandricka Pasupati <chandricka@gmail.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 5/04/2013 9:13 AM
Subject: Proposed guidelines for coal seam gas mining
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>

The CSG and other environmentally destructive mining needs to *work with* existing industries and communities and iconic, heritage and conservation sites in its areas. It is not the *only* source of energy and therefore should not be given preference over the outlined community concerns. It needs to demonstrate it self as a viable alternative not a liability to the community. Most importantly it should be liable for any accidents and these should be made public. As fossil fuels are contributing to man-made climate change (scientific fact not an opinion based on manipulated data) there should be a compulsory contribution to an environmental disaster fund. If this cost is being passed to consumers there needs to be viable renewable options such as solar or wind. As this is not a tax payers option for energy, tax payer money should go in and if it is, money should be deducted from the profits.

The risks of contamination need to be secure as any leaks are destructive to environment, local communities and scarce resources such as water supplies. If these are contaminated it is for ever. Thus strict regulations are valid and necessary. There is also an on going concern of leaks of methane gas (a potent greenhouse gas) into the atmosphere. Such risks need to be avoided rather than minimised. The 2 km restriction zone is a minimum and should be increased to 5 km. Where farmers, residents or communities perceive a real threat, there concerns should be heeded not overruled.

Natural environments should not be worked around but respected and left untouched.

Mining is an alternative. It brings more profit to the companies rather than the community; and destroys more jobs than it creates. Jobs in other energy sectors are restricted because of governments policies that favour fossil fuels. Thus giving precedence to mining companies for this reason is not valid but rather indicates that corruptive elements are at play.

From: Graham Walters <agwalters@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 5/04/2013 3:59 PM
Subject: Coal Seam Gas

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure

The exclusion zone of 2Km is not sufficient to reduce the possibility of contamination of our drinking water, our agricultural lands and iconic natural areas.

We require binding legislation immediately to protect for all time these essentials for quality life.

Graham Walters

srlup - Submission - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

From: "Raymond Mathiesen" <raymond.mathiesen@bigpond.com>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/5/2013 6:49 PM
Subject: Submission - Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.
CC: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>

Raymond Mathiesen
 3/231 Canambe Street,
 Armidale, NSW,
 2350
 05/04/2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
 Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39
 Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

Background:

People across NSW are calling for the protection of local communities from the polluting, high-risk CSG industry. The NSW government has responded with a plan to amend the mining SEPP to set controls and a buffer zone to stop the development of CSG within two kilometres of residential areas and critical industry clusters (horse studs and vineyards).

This is a step in the right direction to protect urban areas that are zoned as residential and critical rural industries. But, the change does not cover impacts of CSG development on the state's key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land, and it does nothing to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

The proposed amendments leave large parts of the state open to CSG development, as the policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest and more than 100 gas wells near the community of Gloucester.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. Allowing CSG development to occur within built-up areas that may not be zoned as 'residential', such as Fullerton Cove where 86 families live within a 2km radius of the proposed drilling, is extremely risky.

The SEPP does not take into account any impacts of CSG mining operations within water catchment areas, including in Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Special Areas. The Apex CSG project in the Illawarra escarpment will be drilling close to three key water catchments including the SCA Woronora Special Area, which provides water for the people of Sydney and Wollongong.

To extract CSG, millions of litres of water are pumped from deep beneath the earth, threatening ancient

aquifers and producing enormous quantities of contaminated waste water.

I strongly support further amendments to the SEPP to protect drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, as promised by Premier O'Farrell in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee"^[1].

The draft SEPP also does not take into account the need to protect state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. The government has a responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

Clause 9A, sub clauses 2 and 3 of the amendment gives local councils the ability to "opt out" of CSG mining prohibition in certain areas identified for CSG exploration and production. While empowering local councils to have a say on development is inherently a good idea, this clause would allow gas companies to circumvent the safeguards by pressuring councils to declare lands exempt that would otherwise be protected by the amendment.

Key points and recommendations to the SEPP draft amendment:

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that

may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.

9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

[1]

Source: www.australiancoalalliance.com/Information/Woodbury%20Park%20Rally.mov.

srlup - Draft Mining SEPP submission

From: Ri Fraser <rifraser@westnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/10/2013 10:59 AM
Subject: Draft Mining SEPP submission

To: Dept of Planning NSW,

Submission re Draft Mining SEPP

I strongly urge you to include the following points listed below in the Mining SEPP

Yours sincerely
Ri Fraser
HMH Fraser
13 Jarrah Cresc
Ocean Shores
2483
02 66803040

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas.
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

srlup - Submission

From: "Richard Stanford" <ripening@optusnet.com.au>
To: <srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/5/2013 4:14 PM
Subject: Submission

Richard Stanford
82 Fennell Crescent
Blackalls Park NSW 2283

5th April 2013

TO:- The Director Strategic Regional Policy
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development

of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.

9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Stanford.

Juen VanHand
548 Barrington East Rd
Barrington NSW 2422
April 10, 2013

Dear Premier Barry O'Farrell

As you can see, I am a resident of the Gloucester region in NSW. I live on the banks of the beautiful Barrington River, which along with the Gloucester and Avon rivers form the main water supply to the whole Barrington, Gloucester, Wingham and Taree rural communities.

Without reliable and safe water, these communities will die. I am most concerned about the CSG mining operations that are proposed for our region. The Liberal-National Government promised us at the last elections that we "will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee".

The current SEPP draft amendment needs to be strengthened to safeguard my community and many other areas in NSW against coal seam gas and other destructive mining.

The exclusion zone of 2 kms of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a good start to protection, but does not go far enough to really protect our most valuable resource, our water supply, and the land which grows the food we eat, and the beautiful natural places that nurture our souls.

The "opt out" clause that allows councils to override the 2 kms exclusion zone of the amendment is a travesty, and must be removed. The risk of corruption and heavy lobbying by powerful industry interests is inevitable. This clause **MUST BE REMOVED**

We need this draft to ensure that the health of our communities and environment is protected from coal and unconventional gas mining. There is nothing in the proposed amendment to the SEPP to protect our water, air, health and rural industries.

I would like to see a moratorium placed on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.

No CSG extraction should be allowed in any water catchment areas in NSW. These should be automatically designated exclusion zones.

Productive agricultural farmland has a high need to be included in these exclusion zones.

The exclusion zone should also include protection for our public lands including high conservation value land, land bordering on national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.

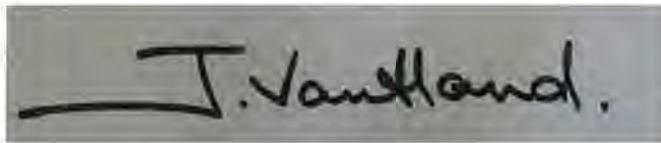
No provision has been made to monitor the fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure such as compressor stations. The Health of our communities must be protected now.

There is a high potential for fragmentation of critical industry groups such as horse studs and vineyards as an example, if CSG activities are permitted in areas where they operate. The amendment should prohibit CSG or other mining development to take place in these areas.

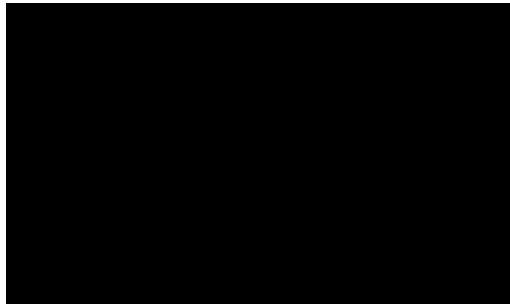
The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. I would like to see this expanded to include all unconventional gas.

The government has a responsibility to the people who will be living in these areas in decades to come. Will there be a future for our grandchildren, a future that has health, clean water, good quality food and air as a fundamental right.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "J. VanHand." with a period at the end.

Juen VanHand



11 April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir

My family and I are residents of the Gloucester valley. I am writing to you on behalf of my family, as we are very concerned with the CSG & coal mining industry within Australia.

I attended a field day in the Gloucester district a few years ago at AGL's invitation. The most disturbing sight I saw was the huge dams that AGL had constructed for the waste water from the extraction process of the gas. Each dam was lined with a very thick liner, had flags and danger signs and we were informed that the water was not fit for human entry, as the water was very salty and also contained the chemicals that the fracking produced. We were told not to concern ourselves about the waste water, as it would be treated by reverse osmosis.

Since that field day, I have learnt that AGL have decided not to treat the water by reverse osmosis and at that stage they didn't have a procedure in place for the waste water. All the while the dams are surely and steadily filling up with the waste water.

The dams concerned are in an area that is often flooded by the Avon River which sets off my alarm bells. Who is going to check on AGL at flood times to make sure water isn't being released into the Avon River. Or what is going to happen to the dams full of this toxic water? We have all this waste water now, and AGL hasn't even started mining for gas yet.

By the way, we were also told that Gloucester will not be connected to natural gas that the gas has to be treated elsewhere before it can be used. So, Gloucester takes the risk of our beautiful environment being damaged for ever and not even having the small benefit of the gas our valley will produce.

I was so pleased to hear that the Mining SEPP excluded zoned residential areas, mapped critical viticulture & thoroughbred industry clusters. Then I thought why wouldn't the

SEPP include all residential areas and all farming and water catchment areas. Surely they are all just as deserving of protection.

The SEPP policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations. **The 4 corners expose highlighted the need for this in the Queensland gas fields.**

Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.

To protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales. In Gloucester's case, it is the water catchment area for not only Gloucester but the Manning Valley and Great Lakes district.

The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.

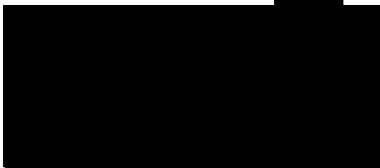
The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment which allows councils to override the 2km exclusion zone which could lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.

There are many other concerns that my family and I have about the rush to make a "quick buck" by our governments and the mining industries, but like most Australians, my husband and I are too busy earning a living to support our family and don't have time to write lengthy letters to government departments. My first letters about coal mining on Gloucester's doorstep which I sent to Minister Ian McDonald were never replied to (now I know why!) I am sure that if the government had a simple Face book "like" or "don't like" on CSG there would be a resounding "don't like - needs more research" reply.

I only hope that our government will see beyond the immediate gains of the CSG and coal mining boom, and protect our precious water and agricultural productive land as well as our air quality for our future generations. If we can't trust the government to look after it, what hope have we got!

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Barry O'Farrell

From: Joachim Karsch [jkarsch1@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, 12 April 2013 12:24 PM
To: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Submission to the SEPP draft on CSG

DEAR SIR/MADAM

1. Prohibiting new CSG activities within 2km of residential areas and critical industry clusters is a positive first step towards protecting urban communities and important industries from the damaging impacts of CSG. However, this policy will not deliver much-needed protection for our drinking water catchments, agricultural lands and iconic natural places.
2. There is a risk of exploitation of the council "opt out" clause of the amendment. Allowing councils to override the 2km exclusion zone may lead to negative environmental outcomes and exposes councils to lobbying by powerful industry interests and a heightened risk of corruption. This clause should be removed.
3. Coal mining threatens water quality and availability, air quality, health, food production and other industries. The proposed amendment to the SEPP does nothing to protect communities and the environment from coal mining. The government should put in place policies that safeguard our land, water and communities from both coal and unconventional gas industries.
4. Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.
5. In order to protect our critical drinking water, the exclusion zones should be extended to prohibit CSG extraction in or near Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) water catchments areas, SCA Special Areas and other drinking water catchments across New South Wales.
6. Exclusion zones should include protections for our public lands, including high conservation value land, land bordering national parks, state conservation areas and travelling stock routes.
7. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.
8. The amendment fails to adequately protect public health as it does not regulate the emissions that may be produced beyond the 2km exclusion zone, or provide any requirements for monitoring fugitive emissions from CSG extraction. The policy should be amended to include the development of air pollution standards that are specific to CSG and monitoring of air pollutants at all CSG fields and associated infrastructure, such as compressor stations.
9. The amendment should prohibit the development of CSG or other mining to take place between critical industries clusters beyond the 2km zone to avoid fragmenting the areas in which they operate. Allowing CSG development between individual horse studs and vineyards would limit their ability to operate as a cluster and runs counter to the intent of the amendment to protect these critical rural industries.
10. The SEPP amendment only relates to gas from coal beds. This leaves out tight gas, which is being explored in parts of the Northern Rivers region. All unconventional gas should be

included in the SEPP amendment to avoid a patchwork of regulations that leaves parts of the state at risk.

Yours sincerely,
U & J Karsch
POBox 3089, Wamberal 2260

Craig Linn
57 St Georges Crescent
Faulconbridge
NSW 2776

9th April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Submission on CSG Exclusion Zone Draft SEPP amendment

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a NSW resident, a father, and a grandfather to express my disgust at the failure of successive governments to adequately protect our state's land and water for future generations.

I have examined the public consultation draft of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013* and its associated documents.

The draft SEPP amendment constitutes a first step in the right direction but it is unfortunately deficient in many respects. Before setting out specific additions and changes required to address the deficiencies a few general observations are in order.

The draft SEPP amendment does not appear to have any worthwhile basis or rationale!

Health Basis? If the draft SEPP amendment was based on health issues then it would not disregard the health impacts of CSG and mining in general on people and animals on farms, farming homestead clusters, and small communities that do not qualify as Residential Zones. Does the government believe that the health of children and adults in these settings is in some way of lesser value or consequence? Similarly, if the exclusion zone proposals were genuinely health driven then previously "*determined*" CSG and other forms of mining would be subject to similar exclusion zones. Is the government seriously suggesting that simply because a mining approval was granted in the past that in some magical way there are no health consequences for those exposed now?

Environmental Basis? If the the draft SEPP amendment was based on environmental issues then it would not disregard the pollution and degradation by CSG of huge areas of land of high environmental value just because they do not qualify as residential zones. Further if the policy was based on environmental issues the draft SEPP amendment would not be so narrowly focussed on CSG, and fail to address the need for exclusion zones in regard to other extractive mining activities. In this respect a telling anomaly in the exhibition document set occurs in the *Explanation of Intended Effects* document. Here it is noted that mining development activity such as "*monitoring equipment*" and "*geological mapping and surveying*" is exempted from exclusion zones as it is deemed to be of "*minimal environmental impact*". From this, one must draw the conclusion that all other mining developments have non-*minimal* environmental impacts, but with the exception of those classified as new (not yet approved) CSG none of these mining activities are subject to exclusion zones. Strange, isn't it?

Political and Financial Basis? One rationale that does appear to drive the draft SEPP amendment is the desire to give voters in built-up residential areas (particularly key Western Sydney electorates) the impression that the Government is solving the CSG problem. Such a cynical "out of sight, out of mind" policy proposal, so narrowly focussed on just one type of mining in NSW, reflects very

poorly on the government's commitment to community health and environmental protection. Quite frankly, many I have spoken to about the policy are deeply insulted by its "throw the dog a bone" nature.

One must also draw the conclusion that a second rationale is apparently to ensure that land values in proposed *future residential growth areas* do not fall. If CSG industrialisation was to occur in these future "*growth*" areas then prospective buyers would be very thin on the ground indeed and this would not make for happy land developers. Some of a cynical bent might even think that this might in some small way perhaps constrain the flow of party political donations. Perhaps if some donations of significance were to be made by small mammals and snakes from the Pilliga Forest things would be different and they too would be granted an exclusion zone.

Specific Additions and Changes Needed

Too much is left out

Of all the failings of the draft policy amendment the greatest is what it leaves out. As a matter of urgency the Government needs to provide exclusion zones that protect:

- our water catchments, including the extended network of waterways that feed into them;
- our extensive groundwater systems;
- our productive agricultural lands;
- our areas of significant environmental value.

CSG is not the only problem

The draft policy amendment is far too focussed on one specific form of mining extraction, namely CSG. The policy amendment needs to be expanded to provide exclusion zones in relation to other extractive mining. Coal mining in particular is known to have very significant human health environmental impacts. It too should be the subject of exclusion zones.

Council Opt Out Provision Inappropriate

The draft SEPP amendment allows councils to "*opt out*" of the proposed exclusion zone protection, thus allowing CSG activity in areas that would under the draft be excluded. However, the draft SEPP does not (with the exception of possible R5/Village considerations) afford councils similar freedom to opt-out of the damage caused by CSG by seeking additional and extended exclusion zones as determined by them and their communities. This one sided "opt out" provision for councils has the potential to subject councillors to considerable pressure from powerful mining interests. This "opt out" provision should be removed.

Lack of Certainty

While possible R5/Village exclusion zones are discussed in the Frequently Asked Questions document the coverage is far from detailed and at times vague. As proposed such possible exclusion zones involve a long bureaucratic chain comprising Local Council, Department of Planning, and the Minister - with the possibility of a negative finding at any step in the chain. This is not good enough. All NSW residents deserve to know without doubt that their homes and a good measure of the surrounding land (including the strata below) will remain free from mining activity. The policy must give people certainty, as it currently stands no such certainty exists.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Linn

11th April 2013

Cathlyn Hudson
215 Peregrine Road
BILLYWILLINGA NSW 2795

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident and property owner within the Bathurst area & welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed SEPP draft amendment policy with the view to widening its amendments in order to strengthen its application.

As a resident who lives on a rural property in an area of prime agricultural production, I am strongly opposed to having any form of Coal Seam Gas (CSG) development or other mining on such important and productive land. A recent Fairfax poll found that 75 percent of NSW residents, across all political parties, strongly oppose coal seam gas development on agricultural land. This figure is indicative of the widespread opposition that exists, in both rural and urban areas, to any expansion of this industry in our state. One of the reasons for this being the dramatic impact, coal seam gas mining, has on water ways, as recently shown on ABC's Four Corners report of 1/4/13, concerning the leaching of water from the coal seams to allow the flow of gas to be tapped.

Whilst the proposed amendment is a positive move towards the protection of urban areas that are zoned as residential and critical rural industries, it falls short of protecting our key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land. The potential damage CSG will have upon the Artesian Basin will be detrimental beyond thought, to our drought prone country. It also fails to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

As yet we remain unaware of the health impacts this type of industry has upon individuals, but already we are aware of the enormous environmental degradation that occurs as a result of this type of mining, due to the experience of other rural communities across Australia, especially in Queensland, where the process is now affecting the availability of water on properties in close proximity to the extraction zones.

The process of CSG extraction has been instrumental in contaminating huge underground water resources, resulting in large quantities of contaminated waste water. To allow an industry dependent on such enormous levels of water to be active in rural areas, many of whom are still drought declared and other areas still recovering from extensive drought periods, is destructive and negligent. Rural areas cannot risk their precious water resources being lost and damaged, especially in an age where it is apparent that our weather patterns are resulting in hotter and drier periods

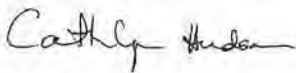
where our water resources are further stressed. It is also vital that our water resources are protected in order to maintain their priority usage for food production and not for the priority of mining interests.

Since 1891 The Great Artesian Basin water yield has been dropping significantly. One third of bores which flowed when drilled have now ceased to flow without the aid of pumps to bring water to the surface. Conservation of this essential asset needs to be maintained responsibly. If rivers and streams become dry in times of drought, the base river flow which normally runs out of the artesian basin will not be able to refill the river because the groundwater has dropped too low.

It is imperative that the SEPP draft legislation include further amendments to protect productive agricultural land and drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, a promise made by Premier O'Farrell in 2009. The draft SEPP also needs to include protection for our state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. It is the state government's responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

I call on the government to include these strict amendments in the form of exclusion zones around agricultural lands and landscapes of both conservation and environmental sensitivity, including that where our native wildlife is vulnerable or threatened. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathlyn Hudson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Cathlyn Hudson

11th April 2013

Jenny Barry
215 Peregrine Road
BILLYWILLINGA NSW 2795

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of the Bathurst area & welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed SEPP draft amendment policy with the view to widening its amendments in order to strengthen its application.

As a resident who lives on a rural property in an area of prime agricultural production, I am strongly opposed to having any form of Coal Seam Gas (CSG) development or other mining on such important and productive land. A recent Fairfax poll found that 75 percent of NSW residents, across all political parties, strongly oppose coal seam gas development on agricultural land. This figure is indicative of the widespread opposition that exists, in both rural and urban areas, to any expansion of this industry in our state.

Whilst the proposed amendment is a positive move towards the protection of urban areas that are zoned as residential and critical rural industries, it falls short of protecting our key water supplies, state conservation areas, high conservation value land, and productive agricultural land. It also fails to address the damaging impacts from other mining operations, including large coal mines.

As yet we remain unaware of the health impacts this type of industry has upon individuals, but already we are aware of the enormous environmental degradation that occurs as a result of this type of mining, due to the experience of other rural communities across Australia.

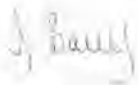
The process of CSG extraction has been instrumental in contaminating huge underground water resources, resulting in large quantities of contaminated waste water. To allow an industry dependent on such enormous levels of water to be active in rural areas, many of whom are still drought declared and other areas still recovering from extensive drought periods, is destructive and negligent. Rural areas cannot risk their precious water resources being lost and damaged, especially in an age where it is apparent that our weather patterns are resulting in hotter and drier periods where our water resources are further stressed. It is also vital that our water resources are protected in order to maintain their priority usage for food production and not for the priority of mining interests.

It is imperative that the SEPP draft legislation include further amendments to protect productive agricultural land and drinking water catchments from mining and gas development, a promise made

by Premier O'Farrell in 2009. The draft SEPP also needs to include protection for our state conservation areas and other public lands from inappropriate mining and gas developments. It is the state government's responsibility to protect the natural and cultural heritage of state and public lands for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Coal seam gas extraction is inconsistent with the management principles for state conservation areas and public expectations regarding the management of protected areas.

I call on the government to include these strict amendments in the form of exclusion zones around agricultural lands and landscapes of both conservation and environmental sensitivity, including that where our native wildlife is vulnerable or threatened. Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Barry', written in a cursive style.

Jenny Barry

Susan Kiprovich

From: John & Sally Higgins <jhigg@mywispmail.net.au>
Sent: Friday, 12 April 2013 8:49 PM
To: Public Hazzard's Office Email
Subject: CSG SEPP Submission

Sally Higgins
"Faulkland"
622 Gloucester Tops Road
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422

11th April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.
I am a resident of Gloucester and have lived here for 25 years

It is pleasing to see that as a government you have responded to the many people right across NSW who are calling for the protection of local communities from the polluting, high-risk CSG industry. While the amendments to the Policy eg the buffer zone is a start I believe further protection is required to protect our water, our agricultural land and the cumulative effect of other mining operations and so risk the health of your constituents.

I work in health with children and am seeing an increasing number of children with difficulties and feel that our environment and quality of food is affecting them and so they are not reaching their potential which of course is a cost to the government. There has not been a comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining and the cumulative effect of other mining operations on health and so its effects are unknown. Therefore, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.

Allowing mining in catchment areas where enormous quantities of contaminated waste water are produced just does not make sense. I have to agree with Premier O'Farrell who said in 2009: "The next Liberal-National government ... will ensure that mining can't occur in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee"^[1]. Please keep your promise.

Exclusion zones should also protect our critical farmland and water by prohibiting the expansion of coal mining and unconventional gas operations on productive agricultural land. There is enough coal and gas reserves available as stated by the mining industry but we know we have limited resources (land and water), which are decreasing with climate change, to feed our nation and the world, so let us use common

sense and not the dollar to decide where agriculture and mining should take place. It is foolish to think that the mining companies can conduct their own environmental studies and when they say they will operate to "Best Practice" - we know from past experience this is not good enough. The results have been disastrous. The proposed amendments should also apply to projects already through the approval stage as many of these areas have not had vigorous studies done as demonstrated on the 4 Corners program.

As a Liberal voter I was looking forward to some good commonsense decisions on these topics from this government who had made promises to do so but I have to say like many, many people I am very disappointed. While you may have made some moves in the right direction they are not enough to protect my children and our states children to ensure that they will have good quality food and water and health. I look forward to hearing that you have made more amendments to State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP)

Yours sincerely,
Sally Higgins

^[1] Source: www.australiancoalalliance.com/Information/Woodbury%20Park%20Rally.mov.

Barry O'Farrell

From: Linda Lowton [lindal38@optusnet.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 11 April 2013 5:41 PM
To: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: SEPP amendments and CSG exclusion Zones submission

Submission regarding the SEPP amendments and the CSG Exclusion Zones

1. The SEPP amendments should be broadened to include a 2km buffer around all residential dwellings.
2. The right to veto for local councils should be removed unless it is matched with an equivalent power for councils to list new prohibited areas.
3. The provisions should include exclusions for all identified food producing lands, water catchments and sensitive environmental areas (Gloucester had always been classed as Environmentally Sensitive).
4. The SEPP amendments should be expanded to apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction including shale gas and tight gas.
5. The SEPP amendments should apply to projects that have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation i.e. AGL Gloucester Project Stage 1.

In addition:

We would like to make the point that the Deputy Premier admitted on a recent 7:30 program that he wouldn't want a CSG well near his place because (1) it will reduce his property value and (2) there is always the potential for something to go wrong. If the Deputy Premier doesn't want it near his home, neither do the people of the Gloucester Valley which is where we live.

We also strongly support the submission being made by Barrington, Gloucester, Stroud Preservation Society (BGSP).

Linda Lowton

Paul Dawson

657 Bucketts Road

67 Hume Street

GLOUCESTER NSW 2422

GLOUCESTER NSW 2422

Barry O'Farrell

From: Tony Tate [tact@exemail.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 11 April 2013 7:21 PM
To: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>,
<UpperHunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: CSG Sepp Submission
Attachments: AGL Gas wells over Rocky Hill mine site.pdf

Dear Sir's

This is a copy of our submission sent to the **State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) in response to a public outcry over coal seam gas (CSG) exploration and production near residential areas.** We are hopefull you read this and act on our concerns.

Yours Sincerely

Anthony & Carol Tate

Anthony & Carol Tate
13 Mahogany Drive
Gloucester
NSW 2422

11th April 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are residents of Avon River Estate (1 of several small estates just south of Gloucester) which is approx. 1.5 to 2 Klm's from where we live:- PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT. We are members of GRIP (Gloucester Residents In Partnership). We welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

Some of our comments and concerns on the SEPP draft amendment are as follows.

1. We are of the opinion that there has not been enough investigation into public health so close to these mine sites, e.g. the AIR, WATER & NOISE emmissions that may be detrimental to our health.

2. We also feel we are being treated as 2nd class citizens after seeing a recent report which goes something like:- " The Deputy Premier admitted on a recent 7:30 program said that he wouldn't want a CSG well near his place because (1) it will reduce his property value and (2) there is always the potential for something to go wrong". If the Deputy Premier doesn't want it near his home, neither do WE the people of the Gloucester Valley.

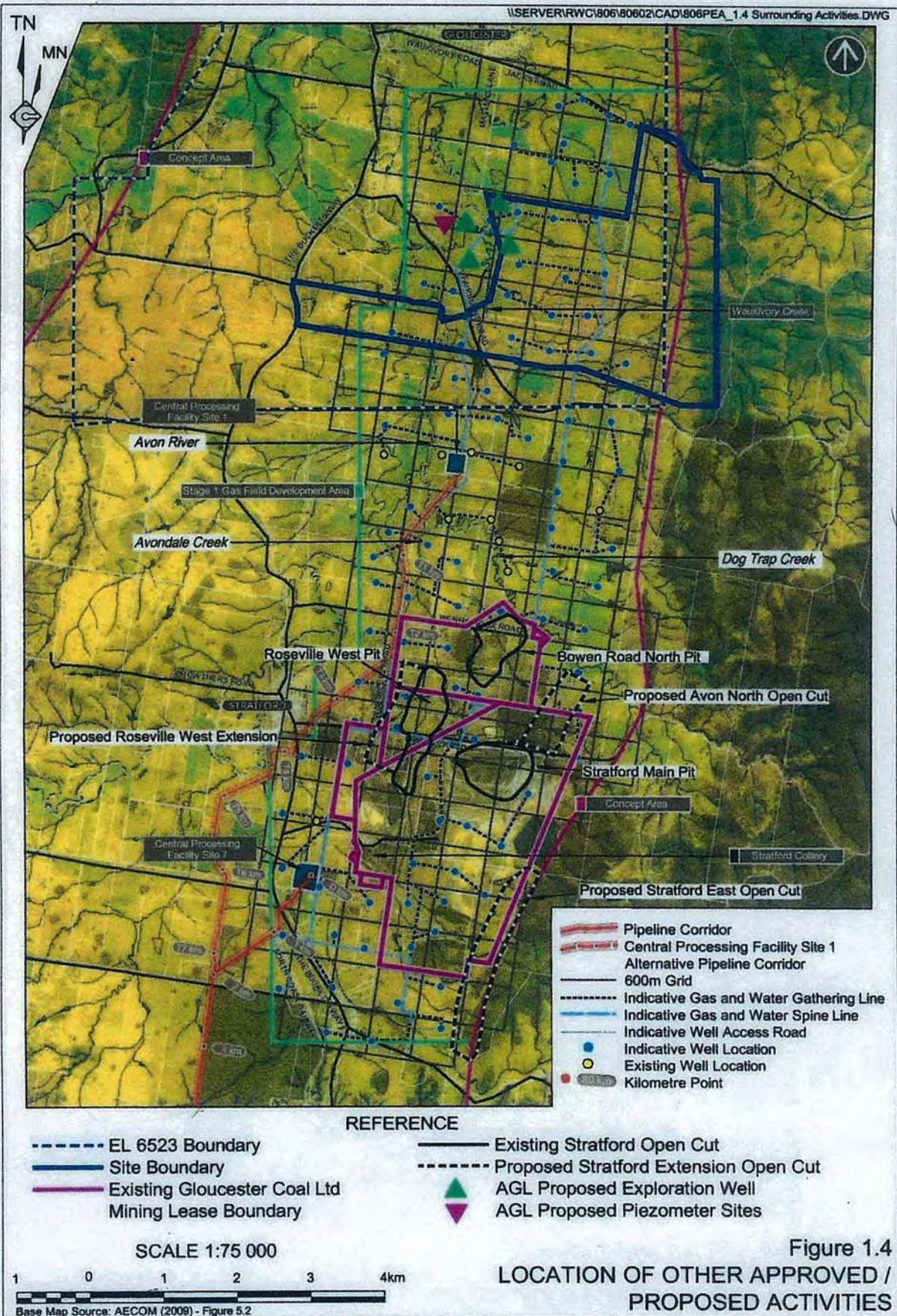
Yours sincerely,
A.C. & C.E.Tate

Anthony C. Tate & Carol E.Tate

No virus found in this message.

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Version: 2013.0.2904 / Virus Database: 3162/6237 - Release Date: 04/10/13



Barry O'Farrell

From: Peter Buchtman [p_buchtman@yahoo.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 11 April 2013 5:35 PM
To: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Draft amendment to SEPP (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Dear Premier O'Farrell

As a concerned citizen I have for several years followed the progress of the Coal Seam Gas debate with a particular emphasis on the Gloucester Valley situation.

As you may be aware, the geology of this area is very complex, and what may be true in one paddock may be totally different in an adjacent paddock.

Therefore, standard modelling is totally unreliable and the possibility of aquifer contamination if drilling were undertaken is much more likely.

A reliable source of clean water is essential to rural communities. Therefore I support any action to halt exploration and/or extraction of coal seam gas in the Gloucester Valley.

A clean environment is the most precious thing we can leave for future generations. We will be judged by that legacy.

The Deputy Premier is on the record as not wanting exploration and/or extraction near his property; nor do the residents of the Gloucester Valley, for the very same reasons.

I support the actions and submissions made by the BGSPA concerning this draft amendment as a start to halting altogether the potential destruction of the pristine rural environment of the Gloucester Valley. The SEPP amendments should apply to coal mining and to all forms of unconventional gas extraction. They should also apply to projects which have been approved but have not yet satisfied their conditions of approval, and have not yet commenced operation.

Sincerely

Peter L Buchtman
25 Benedictine Place
CHERRYBROOK NSW 2126
(02) 9899 3334
p_buchtman@yahoo.com.au

ANNIE MORRIS WIELAND

32 FITZGERALD STREET • KATOOMBA NSW • 2780
PHONE: +612 4782 9328 • MOBILE: 0407016122
EMAIL: amwieland@aapt.net.au

April 11, 2013

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Re: Draft amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones) 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

I believe the **2 km exclusion zone** proposed while seeming to go in the right direction does not go nearly far enough. Any exploration license which has already been given is not included in this proposed legislation rendering it merely a token to pacify voters prior to the election.

It does nothing to insure that water catchments, agricultural land, or native forests are protected, and has no teeth to make the industry accountable for damage to humans or our land and water resources.

Extracting and burning fossil fuel is the problem and not part of the solution or even a smart transition. Even if there were a safe and non harmful way to extract (coal, coal seam gas and other petroleum products) and there isn't, burning them anywhere on the planet fuels un- acceptable climate change.

Our water catchments, the Great Artesian Basin and prime food production areas are not protected...nor is our own health protected from the toxicity from coal seam gas industry that inevitably arises.

We are not so naive as to think this legislation is looking out for our interests. One has to ask the question why politicians are subsidizing and promoting this obsolete industry. We will reach a time in the not too distant future when the idiocy of letting these resources be compromised by toxicity and foreign investment will become only too evident.

Deutsche Bank did a study saying basically renewables are cheaper to produce NOW and create more jobs.

So I ask you to take the courageous step and place a moratorium on CSG, coal mining and other extractive fossil fuel industries. It is imminently possible to turn our country around and be completely reliable on safe, durable, forever renewables.

Sincerely,
Annie Morris Wieland
Katoomba

Susan Kiprovich

From: Alice Beauchamp <yourfriendalice@bigpond.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 April 2013 2:13 PM
To: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au
Cc: Premier's Office; Public Hazzard's Office Email
Subject: Draft amendment to State Environmental Planning Policy (Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones).

I congratulate the NSW Government on its enlightened amendment of the relevant Environmental Planning Policy, for a 2 km exclusion zone around residential areas and some industry clusters.

This is certainly a step in the right direction, but it still needs strengthening for vital stronger protection of our health, our drinking water, our agricultural lands & our environment. Other industries also need protection. Having made a start, and listened to the community, there is hope for follow up.

Sincerely,

Alice Beauchamp
4/11 Little St., Lane Cove
Ph 9427 5577

Susan Kiprovich

From: John Nicholson <maajkn@hunterlink.net.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 April 2013 5:56 PM
To: srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au
Cc: Premier's Office; Public Hazzard's Office Email
Subject: COAL SEAM GAS

John and Margaret Nicholson
3 Phascogale Crescent
Barrington NSW 2422

11th April

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Dear Sir/Madam

We are residents of Barrington NSW, 6 kilometres from Gloucester, and have emailed many times over the past six to eight months on the subject of coal seam gas and a proposed coal mine to the Premier, Mr Hazzard, Mr Hartcher and our local member, Mr Souris.

The possible effects of pollution of the atmosphere by coal seam gas is only one of our concerns. We feel there is a distinct danger of damage to groundwater by the extraction of massive amounts of water during the development of a CSG well. In addition, this contaminated water has to be held somewhere and if it is accidentally released, as we believe has happened elsewhere, in the case of the Gloucester/Avon valley it could get into our river systems which is the source of our drinking water as well as for livestock.

When in Opposition Premier O'Farrell gave a guarantee that mining would not occur in water catchment areas and we expect that to apply in our valley.

The 2 kilometre buffer zone is a start and should also apply to Gloucester area but this does not necessarily protect our water.

We would like the SEPP to take into account the need to protect our whole environment. We are in our 80s and are concerned for the future of our grand children and great grand children.

Yours faithfully

John and Margaret Nicholson

Submission on Consultation Draft

In all the debate about CSG there is little information provided about what benefits CSG brings to NSW; why this fledgling untested industry appears to be fast-tracked and cosseted; why some production is not reserved for domestic use at reasonable cost; and why the onus of proof about effects on water, health and land use appears to be reversed so that it falls on those affected rather than on CSG proponents.

In relation to development generally, including wind turbines, mining and coal seam gas exploration/extraction in particular, there should be two inviolate fundamental principles as the starting point. The wording may need some fine-tuning but the essence is:

1. property owners are entitled to quiet enjoyment of their property. This means there is no intrusion on, or diminution in the amenity of their property, including visual pollution, blocking solar access, and so on. It also means that no nuisance is to be imposed on their property – whether by sound inside or outside the range of human hearing, dust, air quality, odour, exposure to chemical vapours and the like.
2. government, its agencies or servants, are not to use the power of the state to defeat the legitimate interests of any individual. This means use of money and staff resources, legal processes, and includes delay, withholding information, refusal to act, and obstruction. It also precludes overt or covert action to support non-government entities doing so.

The public consultation draft does not go far enough to meet these principles. A 2 kilometre buffer is insufficient, and there needs to be stronger controls to prevent local councils rendering any buffer ineffective.

It is not acceptable for property-owning citizens to have misery imposed on them or their lives turned upside down in any way by state action or state-supported action. To argue that it is in the interests of the state simply means that we as citizens of the state are prepared to accept benefits (or supposed benefits) even if that imposes hardship on, or perhaps destroys the lives of, our fellow citizens. The only exception should be in cases where there is an overwhelming, proven, transparent excess of benefit to the community over cost to the community and an equitable system of fair recompense to those adversely affected.

This is a basic matter of social conscience and ethical investment. Many people pride themselves on not investing in a way that encourages child labour, sweatshops and the like because it is all based on the exploitation and suffering of other human beings and therefore morally repugnant. Proponents of “clean energy” would normally be vocal guardians of the rights of vulnerable communities like this – yet there seems to be no recognition that wind turbines and CSG are being permitted to violate the right of surrounding neighbours to quiet enjoyment of their property, and this is being aided and abetted by the state, all of which is damaging to their lives and livelihoods and equally morally repugnant.

The arrogant comment recently attributed to Tim Flannery that the only health effect he is aware of caused to neighbours of wind farms is that of envy due to the financial benefits reaped by the turbine “host” next door, is stupid in the extreme. But it appears to be typical of the double standards adopted to override the need for caution in new and largely unproven technologies. No one who has stood near an operating wind turbine would make such a dismissive remark. The sound and weird sense of vibration is overwhelming, intrusive and oppressive. Similarly no one who has stood downwind of a large coal dump would argue that coal dust is not a problem, and it is clear from experience overseas and locally that CSG operations impose similar environmental burdens on their neighbours. And that those burdens may extend well beyond adjacent properties.

As mentioned at the outset, there is virtually no transparent information available about the benefits of CSG, the extent of damage it inflicts or why the precautionary principle is not being applied in relation to water, health, and land use. Until all these aspects are satisfactorily

debated and there is a genuine social licence to proceed, CSG exploration/extraction should be stopped.

So far as this consultation draft is concerned, for the reasons outlined above the current exclusion zone proposal needs to be amended in the following manner:

1. Extend the exclusion zone to at least 3 kilometres to provide a greater and more effective buffer. This is particularly important when development is visible to other properties, and so much is unknown about water and health impacts.
2. If it is proven, as distinct from just being assumed, to be desirable and necessary for local councils to be able to override the general rule by listing areas on schedule 2, they must not be permitted to do so unless it is with the express written and informed agreement of all affected property owners. To be informed, owners must first be provided with independent legal and other relevant advice at no cost to them.

Provide protection for farm houses by treating them as residential zones also. Rural residents also deserve equal protection from intimidatory development.

Terry Page
1 Lois Street
Winston Hills NSW 2153
96863403

7 Hogan Street
ILUKA NSW 2466

I request that The SEPP be expanded to apply to coal mining and all forms of unconventional gas extraction. I would also like it broadened to include a 2km buffer zone around all residential areas. The exclusion zone should definitely be extended to protect our water catchment areas. These are not unreasonable requests considering the little scientific knowledge there is regarding the safety of mining, particular of the fracking process. Why are horse breeders and wine producers more important than everyone else ? It is quite discriminatory.

Annie Dorrian

Dear Sir/Madam,

I applaud your initial steps in controlling CSG expansion, and the 2 Km exclusion zones

I urge you to expand exclusion zones to better protect water supply, sensitive areas, and other sensitive farming.

The argument that NSW needs the gas is clearly scare-mongering. Any gas found will be exported to the highest bidder.

This is evidenced by the fact that despite the states massive coal supplies, none is available for local consumption (hence the perceived need for state owned Coborra coal mine).

I also urge you to ensure the safety credentials of coal seam gas, when in close proximity to coal mines, and the blasting they produce. This is the case for some already approved, (but not yet established) licenses. (e.g. Gloucester area).

The safety of this scenario must be established before disaster happens.

Peggy Fisher
Killara
NSW

not anywhere
ever
PLEASE

--

Jude Southwell
judeswell@gmail.com

Barry O'Farrell

From: Liz Friend [makingspace4you@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, 12 April 2013 5:14 PM
To: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>, <office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Coal Seam Gas Mining - 2km exclusion Zone

Attn: Mr O'Farrell & Mr Hazzard

I would like to comment on the proposed policy regarding the 2km exclusion zones. I am quite amazed that the government has not carried out more extensive research into 'fracking' for coal seam gas before it makes these rather strange decisions. 2km from residential areas, horse studs and vineyards - who on earth made this up? What about farms?

If the water is adversely affected - we have no crops, we have no clean water - we have nothing. All we have left is an environment completely ruined by pipelines, we have no fresh food in the shops - and that is meat and vegetables, milk etc etc, we have a severely damaged eco-system.... I would have thought it was common sense to look into this industry with far more scrutiny than what is happening at the moment.

Through my own research, I can see clearly that people are being affected in so many ways by thoughtless actions of governments / big business where the primary (and overriding) goal is to make money for big business and for government without more thought being taken in caring for the welfare of the Australian people and the land.

This is not a 'political' issue - it is an issue that will affect everyone in years to come if the water is polluted with chemicals resulting from fracking - whether you choose to mine near farms or near towns, people will always be potentially affected. It makes complete common sense to me that if you drill down to the water table, there will inevitably be problems.

There are many people already who have experienced health problems.

There are many towns who have been affected by this industry, where the miners come into town... make a quick buck... and then get out of town, severely affecting the resulting economy of that town and it's people.

I have seen footage from the United States where farms have been completely dessimated by the industry, wildlife affected, people's livelihoods, their water.

I have spoken with a farmer near Casino, in his late 70s - his family have been cattle farmers for generations. Due to the fracking, he cannot now guarantee that his cattle are not chemically affected by the water they drink as his neighbour allowed mining to take place on his farm. This has completely ruined his business.

We had a huge disaster from asbestos... this is potentially a far greater disaster for the Australian people.

We need to invest in renewable energy. I live on the land with solar, I am not on the grid. I like it that way. I do not want fracking to take place anywhere near my land. And I will fight with the local people in whatever way I can to make sure this doesn't happen.

I do hope you can see sense and think again.

Please think more intuitively about the potential consequences of your actions which could continue to affect a far greater number of Australian people than have already been affected.

Would you live with coal seam gas mining next to where you live?

Could you stand the noise?

Could you cope if your children start to get nose bleeds, headaches, seizures?

Please take time to get out from the office and really look at what is going on and stop being pressured by big business and your budgets!

Yours sincerely
Liz Friend

Lot 3, Settlement Road
Mullumbimby NSW 2482

RW + PS McKelvey
10 Ellem Close
Ararararra, NSW 2456

Phone 612 6649 2549
0429 457 138
email: rodmcKelvey@yahoo.com.au

The Director Strategic Regional Policy
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY 2001

12 April 2013

RE: Draft Mining SEPP Amendment Coal Seam Gas Exclusion Zones 2013

Dear Sir/Ms,

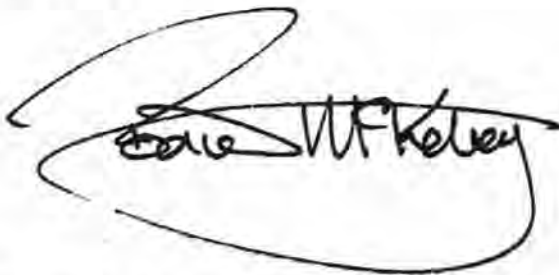
The proposed amendments regarding CSG extraction in NSW do not go far enough because they still leave large parts of the state open to CSG development. The policy does not apply to projects already through the approval stage, including a massive gas field planned for the Pilliga Forest, which is tantamount to environmental vandalism. As bad, if not worse, more than 100 gas wells will be near the beautiful community of Gloucester, all within a water catchment area for farms and communities downstream.

There has been no comprehensive investigation by the NSW Health Department into the health effects of CSG mining, and therefore its effects in residential areas are unknown. I have been involved for years with Landcare, especially with the restoration of river systems, and I understand how difficult the job is above ground when we can monitor what we are doing. Underground "restoration" would be impossible.

CSG extraction is an unknown quantity. To extract millions of litres of water from deep beneath the earth, putting at risk ancient aquifers that may affect future food production forever, is completely irresponsible, whilst at the same time the extraction process produces enormous quantities of contaminated waste water for communities to deal with.

Given the risks to water resources and public health from CSG extraction, the government should place a moratorium on all CSG drilling at least until a comprehensive study into the human health impacts of CSG has been conducted, as recommended by the South Western Sydney Local Health District and other community groups in NSW.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rod W McKelvey', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Rod W McKelvey
Deputy Chair, Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority