

Frequently Asked Questions Feedback sought on mapping of additional coal seam gas exclusion zones

WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT INTRODUCING COAL SEAM GAS EXCLUSION ZONES?

- The NSW Government is delivering on its commitment to make residential areas 'off limits' to coal seam gas (CSG) activity.
- Stage-one exclusion zones are now in force, prohibiting CSG activity in and within 2km of existing residential zones across the State and the North West and South West Growth Centres of Sydney (see FAQ – Coal seam gas exclusion zones now in force).
- The Government is now exhibiting proposals to expand CSG exclusion zones (known as the stage-two exclusion zones).

WHAT IS ON EXHIBITION?

- The NSW Government is seeking feedback on maps which show how CSG exclusion zones would apply to additional village areas and future residential growth areas across the State.
- The NSW Government is also exhibiting revised maps for the Critical Industry Clusters in the Upper Hunter region. It is proposed that CSG exclusion zones be applied to the areas in these revised maps.
- These stage-two CSG exclusion zones will extend protection to these communities.
- These proposals are being exhibited as draft amendments to the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007* (Mining SEPP).
- These documents can be found on the Department of Planning & Infrastructure's website at: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/srlup
- Feedback is invited up to **8 November 2013**.

WHY ARE ADDITIONAL VILLAGE AREAS PROPOSED TO BE PART OF THE EXCLUSION ZONES?

- The Department of Planning & Infrastructure (DP&I) identified that there were places which could be considered villages, but because of their zoning did not qualify for CSG exclusion.

Strategic Regional Land Use Policy



- The DP&I invited Councils to nominate rural residential areas that met defined 'village' criteria for inclusion in the CSG exclusion zones.
- The criteria (developed by DP&I, in consultation with the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services and Local Government NSW) are:
 - the area must contain a mix of land uses
 - the zone must apply to a settlement that is long established and has some historic association with the district, region and/or rural hinterland
 - the area must contain a mix of lot sizes, including an average lot size of up to 4,000 square metres.
- The DP&I Local Environmental Plan Review Panel conducted a review of council nominated areas against the criteria. This panel includes representatives from Local Government and DP&I.
- Seven villages were found to have met these criteria:
 - part of Goonengerry in Byron Local Government Area
 - parts of Broke and Bulga, and all of Camberwell and Jerrys Plains in Singleton Local Government Area
 - all of Modanville in Lismore Local Government Area
 - all of Sutton Forrest in Wingecarribee Local Government Area.
- An additional fifty-two per cent of council nominated areas are completely within the 2km buffer of other residential zones and a further twenty-two per cent of the nominated areas are partially within the 2km buffer of other residential zones.

WHAT DOES THE NEW PUBLIC EXHIBITION COVER?

- The CSG exclusion zones will prohibit both coal seam gas exploration and development in and within 2km of mapped future residential growth areas identified in 56 local government areas across the State (see full list of local government areas online at: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/srlup).
- To qualify as a future residential area these locations have to be identified in planning instruments or Government endorsed planning strategies.
- The DP&I consulted with Councils to ensure the maps reflected the future growth areas. Councils and other stakeholders can further review and comment on these areas during the exhibition.

Strategic Regional Land Use Policy



- The CSG exclusion zones will also prohibit CSG exploration and development within the critical industry clusters in the Upper Hunter region (see FAQ – Critical Industry Clusters Exhibition). Feedback is being sought on the draft maps for these areas.

WHAT PROJECTS ARE AFFECTED BY THESE CSG EXCLUSIONS?

- All new coal seam gas activities are prohibited in the CSG exclusion zones.
- Pipelines associated with CSG development will also be prohibited within the exclusion zones, but are permitted within the two kilometre buffer zone, subject to development approval.

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE CRITICAL INDUSTRY CLUSTERS IN THE UPPER HUNTER REGION?

- Critical Industry Clusters (CICs) are significant agricultural industries potentially affected by CSG or mining development.
- Two CICs – the equine and viticulture critical industries – were identified and mapped in the 2012 *Strategic Regional Land Use Plan – Upper Hunter*.
- These areas were mapped at a broad regional scale, and required a follow-up regional verification process.
- The Department of Primary Industries has now concluded this regional verification process and revised maps showing the clusters are now on exhibition at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/srlup
- For further information see the FAQ – Critical Industry Clusters Upper Hunter Exhibition.

EXHIBITION DETAILS

- The exhibition documents can be found on the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's website at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/srlup and will be on exhibition **until 8 November 2013**.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS

- Comments can be made during the exhibition period up to **8 November 2013**:
 - online at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals
 - by email to srlup@planning.nsw.gov.au
 - by mail to Director Assessment Policy, Systems & Stakeholder Engagement, Department of Planning and Infrastructure GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001.
- Comments will be made publicly available and will be published online at:

Strategic Regional Land Use Policy



www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals

- Names and addresses will be withheld if requested. Please ensure your personal details are not included if you do not want to be identified.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- To find out more about the Strategic Regional Land Use Policy visit:

Department of Planning & Infrastructure website:

www.planning.nsw.gov.au/srlup

Coal Seam Gas website:

www.csg.nsw.gov.au

NSW Government Strategic Regional Land Use website:

www.nsw.gov.au/strategicregionallanduse