

Comments re NSW CSG & coal policy

The exclusion areas for residential land and critical industry clusters should be extended to coal mining, with a 2km buffer around each. No point in saving them from CSG if coal is allowed to kill them (Camberwell, Bulga etc)

The CSG (and coal) exclusion zone should apply to all rural residential land and all large lot residential zonings

A 2km buffer should be applied to the critical industry clusters exclusion areas, as well as to the residential exclusions.

The village exclusions for CSG must apply to the entirety of the villages of Goongerry, Broke and Bulga.

It will defeat the purpose of the protections to create holes in the maps if resource companies can nominate to exempt land they own from the critical industry clusters.

There is no protection for agricultural land under the Gateway process. The Regulation must be amended to create a strict exclusion to protect agricultural land from mining for coal and gas, and must apply to all projects not determined before the creation of the amended regulations.

The new Gateway provisions are contradictory, implying at one point that the Panel will not even have the power to recommend rejection of a mining application.

The process to verify biophysical strategic agricultural land is at the discretion of the Director-General of the Department of Planning, who only needs to "have regard to" the verification criteria. There should not be any discretion to remove land from the map if it meets the criteria!

There is still no protection for water catchments and aquifers from coal mining and gas extraction. The next step should be the introduction of exclusion zones to protect surface water and groundwater resources from CSG and coal mining.