



Far North Coast Dairy Industry Group Inc.

ABN: 54 071 729 379

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

28 October 2013

**SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT NSW GOVERNMENT SEPP AMENDMENT ON
CSG EXCLUSION ZONES**

This submission is on behalf of DIG FNC Dairy Industry Group and represents dairy farmers and processors on the Far North Coast.

Our industry welcomes the changes that your Government has released to protect residential areas and the viticulture and thoroughbred industry clusters.

Why would your Government place exclusion zones on wineries and thoroughbred industry clusters over food production? We cannot comprehend the reason but embrace the knowledge that industries you feel are vitally important to protect from the CSG invasion will now be excluded.

Rural communities and families deserve the same protection that its city counterparts now enjoy with the 2 kilometre buffer zones from CSG. The health of families should be paramount to your government and should not be compromised.

We would like to stress that Food security is of growing importance throughout the world and by 2050 there will be a need for farmers to increase production by 70% as global population escalates. Farmers on the North Coast are in a great position to capitalise on this growth.

We believe that your government should be focusing on the vital role that Agriculture is to the NSW economy and our potential for future growth. Our region has a clean green image that is vital to our Asian neighbours with increasing export opportunities. These regions offer an enormous market potential for our industry that we have only just started to explore. The dairy industry in our region is placed to capitalise on this market that is on our doorstep. To enable this outcome we must retain our clean green image. These export markets have the potential to bring growth to our region and the flow on would be a huge gain for our local community.

It is critical that our industry is recognised for the important role that it has in our region and therefore we cannot stress enough the role your government has in protecting our industry. Our local processor has recently invested millions on capital projects to place our industry in a position to capitalise on this growth potential.

CSG has the potential to damage the image that our farmers and community proudly display to our global customers. The two critical factors to our agricultural industry land and water are being jeopardised by CSG exploration and production. Farmers do not have confidence that there is no risk to our environment and agricultural industries with the current regulatory policies that oversees CSG.

Dairy farmers have huge capital outlays on their farms and need the confidence that future investment in our industry is not in jeopardy. CSG has only short-term gains for a few investors but has the potential to cause irreparable damage to water systems and our regions image.

It is vital that this review considers our industry and the wealth that it creates for our economy now and into the future. We must protect and encourage a sustainable North Coast Dairy Industry. Our industry asks that our region is included in SEPP amendments exclusion zones and in doing so is protected from the risk of any damage caused by mining and CSG activities.

If you wish to discuss any part of this submission we would be happy to do so.

Leigh Shearman
Chairperson
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