

1. All residential land (zone R5) and all large lot residential zonings should be added to the CSG exclusion.
2. The 2km buffer should apply to all exclusions, including land mapped as critical industry clusters. The exclusion should be extended to coal mining, which should not be permitted in residential zones, critical industry clusters, and 2km buffer around each.
3. No exemptions to above rules 1 and 2.
4. There is no protection for agricultural land under the Gateway process. The Regulation must be amended to create a strict exclusion, and must apply to all projects not determined before the creation of the amended regulations.
5. The panel has to have the right to reject any application that does not meet strict planning criteria, not just impose conditions.
6. The process to verify biophysical strategic agricultural land is subject to the discretion of the Director-General of the Department of Planning, who only needs to “have regard to” the verification criteria. This is appropriate caution for protection of land, but there should not be any discretion to remove land from the map if it meets the criteria.
7. The next steps should be the introduction of exclusion zones to protect surface water and groundwater resources from CSG and coal mining.
8. All applicants for mining licenses must be ordered to conduct comprehensive baseline water and soil testing prior to their application being considered. The results have to be available to the public