

PCU049174

Director Assessment Policy, Systems & Stakeholder Engagement
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Department of Planning
Received
5 NOV 2013
Scanning Room

Dear Director

RE: Appeal for Inclusion in CSG Exclusion Zone - Belford/ Lower Belford Rural Area

I am a resident of the Belford/Lower Belford community who is deeply concerned about the effects of Coal Seam Gas mining upon my rural community.

We are a rural village environment consisting in the main of small rural residential lots, dairy farms, equine (including multiple thoroughbreds breeders and racing facilities) and viticulture establishments, established concert venue, a school and other community activity centres such as CWA and two churches. Our local school has an enrolment of 56 students. A recently conducted community survey recorded a 97+% rejection rate of CSG mining within our community with no resident in favour of CSG extraction in the community.

The Lower Belford Residents Alliance lodged an application with the Department of Infrastructure and Planning (letter dated 9 April 2013) to be included in the CSG exclusion zones within NSW. We now discover that the application has been unsuccessful. Under the original SRLUP my area was classed as SAL biophysical and viticulture, I want this status retained and classed CIC viticulture, tourism equine.

I appeal against the decision and request the original application to have my community included as a CIC on the following grounds;

My community is a viable rural village/community with very good opportunity to expand residentially. With the completion of the F3 expressway extension (December 2013), Lower Belford will be the community immediately at the start of the freeway. Travel time between here and Sydney will be reduced by 28 minutes, resulting in a mere travel time of 1.5 hours from Lower Belford to Sydney, travel times to Newcastle will be reduced to less than 30 minutes. Currently a large residential subdivision on Standen Drive, Lower Belford is being developed. Once the freeway is completed there will be an acceleration of this residential expansion of this community and therefore the community should be CSG exempt on this reason alone.

Having CSG in Belford/Lower Belford will adversely impact on the adjacent Pokolbin Viticulture, tourism CIC.

The village/community of Belford/Lower Belford must be included in the villages/CICs excluded from Coal Seam Gas development under the draft State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Coal Seam Gas) 2013. We need the area declared "Village" and CIC (viticulture, tourism and equine.

Yours sincerely

Edna M Shoemark
(Signature)

242 Kirkton Rd, Lower Belford
(Address)

Edna May Shoemark
(Name)

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(Address)

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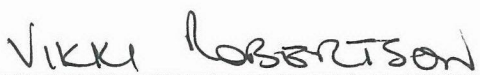
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(Signature)


(Name)


(Address) NSW 2335

(Address)