

Department of Planning & Environment
23-33 Bridge Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Our Reference:
Contact:
Telephone:

Louise Gaffney
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15 July 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Great Lakes Council submission on State Environmental Planning Policy
(Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment 2014**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the latest proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP by the NSW government.

Council is concerned the proposed amendments to the '5 wells rule' could result in a 'cluster' of up to 4 exploratory wells in close proximity to each other (less than 3km) without undertaking any impact assessment on the surrounding area.

The proposed amendments to this rule could also result in more exploratory wells being constructed within an area than would otherwise be possible if the 3km rule was measured from the centre of each well.

The cumulative impacts of multiple wells undertaking fracking in close proximity to each other is a potential risk to the surrounding environment especially in sites of sensitive ecology and residential areas.

Council recommends that the 3km buffer be measured from the centre of each well to eliminate this potential risk to surrounding areas. However, if the amendment is to proceed as exhibited, an additional requirement to undertake preliminary impact assessment for exploratory wells that are located within 3km of each other (measured from the centre of each well), would assist in identifying potential risk to the surrounding environment.

Yours faithfully



ROGER BUSBY
Manager Strategic Planning