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27 November 2014

NSW Planning and Environment
23-33 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2645

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Changes to the NSW Mining and State and Regional Development Planning Policies

Further to your invitation for submissions dated 18 November 2014 regarding proposed changes to planning controls for gas exploration **Council requests an extension of time to enable Council to fully assess the implications of the proposed changes.**

Council considers that the current public exhibition period of 11 days for response to these changes is insufficient to allow thorough consideration of the implications of the legislative changes. **Council requests an extension of time to 30 January 2015.**

Council raises the following issues of concern associated with this request for extension of time:

- It is unclear what guidelines and directions will be developed to address assessing the environmental impacts of CSG exploration activities. These guidelines and directions **must be developed** prior to removing these activities from requiring development consent
- Council is concerned over the lack of transparency associated with determining under Part 5 whether an exploration activity requires further environmental assessment, and
- it is unclear from the proposed amendments or any explanatory material how the amendments will impact on controlling exploration licences will be dealt with and the opportunities for public comment associated with those licenses

I look forward to the Department extending the time period in accordance with our request.

Yours faithfully,

ADRIAN BUTLER
GENERAL MANAGER

All communications to be addressed to the General Manager