

I am opposed to the *State Environmental Planning Policy Amendment (Gas Exploration and Mining) 2014*

Removing the need for development consent for unconventional gas exploration where there are more than five wells within 3km of one another, and for exploration in environmentally sensitive areas of State significance is a huge step backwards for oversight of CSG in NSW at a time when the Chief Scientist has recommended oversight be strengthened.

It is crucial to that high impact exploration activities are adequately and transparently assessed. The clause now set to be deleted was introduced after significant environmental damage was done in the Pilliga forest by coal seam gas exploration activity that was assessed under the poorer Review of Environmental Factors process.

I am also opposed to the introduction of the Department's new Land Acquisition policy into the Mining SEPP.

Rather than force the mining companies to work at civilised hours, and curtail their scale and rate production so that they do not cause breaches of air quality and other standards, the Department of Planning has been allowing the companies to create an unliveable surrounding environment to be breached, and forcing people to sell up and leave their communities.

Rural families are being given an impossible choice: sell up and tear apart a community, or live with unliveable noise and dust impacts from a coal mine next door. I do not believe this is appropriate, just or sustainable.