

Sir

- I am concerned at the rapid introduction of two new policies and limited time available for public comment however would like to submit the following points.
- I oppose the *State Environmental Planning Policy Amendment (Gas Exploration and Mining) 2014* because this amendment removes clauses that ensure development consent is required 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. I believe it is crucial to ensure that high impact exploration activities are adequately and transparently assessed. Removing the relevant clauses is contrary to the Chief Scientist's recommendations.
- I do not believe that the Review of Environmental Factors process and the Office of Coal Seam Gas can deliver the required transparency, rigour or a full appreciation of the risks which an Environmental Impact Statement and engagement with the public and responsible Government agencies can do.
- I oppose the introduction of the Department's new *Land Acquisition* policy into the Mining SEPP which effectively doubles the number of days that the NSW Government considers it is acceptable for people near mines to experience air quality that exceeds the 24-hour limit for particulates – from five days a year to ten days a year. The National Environment Protection Measure for Ambient Air Quality (the Air Quality NEPM) currently has a goal for PM10 concentrations over a 24 hour period of 50µg per cubic metre. In the standard, there is a goal for "maximum allowable exceedances" of five days per year.
- Rural families are being given the choice to sell up, or live with unliveable noise and dust impacts from mines. I do not believe this is appropriate as the living conditions inside the "acquisition zone" are in breach of environmental and health standards.