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## **Lee Evans must back his community**

**This week, Stop CSG Illawarra met with Heathcote MP Lee Evans to ask him to back the community in its calls for a moratorium on CSG mining until the outcome of a Royal Commission, and a ban on fracking.**

**Evans started the meeting by explaining that he too has concerns, pointing out that he mentioned CSG in his maiden speech. However, he then went on to:**

- **Tell us that gas is a necessary 'transition' fuel, acknowledging that in NSW this means coal seam gas;**
- **Tell us that he would not oppose approved drilling, including in the drinking water catchment, despite known risks; and**
- **Tell us the government had adequately informed the community.**

### **Spokesperson Jess Moore stated:**

“Our primary concerns are protecting drinking water, the environment and our health from increasingly well documented damage from coal seam gas mining.

“Evans is not representing this community in government.

“Going with the status quo amounts to backing the mining companies and opposing the community.

“Exploration still involves most of the risks associated with coal seam gas mining. As such, moratoriums are being put in place around the world, despite prior approvals.

“New information about risks should impact whether or not something can go ahead, if a government is responsible.

“The government forgot to ask this community what we think of coal seam gas mining. An item on a website, that no one is alerted to read, does not equal community consultation.

“3,000 people rallied in Evans’ electorate in May. What the community wants is now inescapably clear.

“We call on Evans to change his position and stand up for his community.”

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