



Stop CSG Illawarra
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Media Release: 8th December 2011

MPs sign CSG moratorium petition

Member for Keira Ryan Park, and Member for Heathcote Lee Evans, have signed the petition initiated by Stop CSG Illawarra calling on the NSW Government to put in place: an immediate moratorium on all CSG projects; a royal commission into the full impacts of CSG; and an immediate ban on fracking. Stop CSG Illawarra spokesperson Jess Moore commented:

"The campaign to stop CSG set out to target all MPs and the tide is beginning to turn.

"It's just plain common sense to show caution when it comes to water, health and the environment.

Signing the petition is consistent with the broader political consensus emerging from more structured reviews of the potential risks of CSG mining. These include the recommendations of the Senate enquiry into the Murray Darling - which calls for a thorough review and a halt to further approvals - and policy positions of the Greens and Labor supporting a moratorium.

"We welcome this support and call on other MPs across the state and the O'Farrell Government to follow suit.

"There is now more than enough evidence that CSG mining brings problems.

"The contamination of water systems and supplies, leaking methane, health impacts and carved up landscapes, show the need for an immediate moratorium on all CSG projects and a royal commission into the full impacts of the industry.

"Fracking – which fractures underground systems, can cause earthquakes and involves the direct contamination and release of large quantities of fresh fresh water – should not be allowed to proceed."

"The question now is: what will Park and Evans do to have these changes implemented?"

"Given a new CSG well was approved in his electorate on November 21 - and in an area designed to protect the quality of drinking water for more than 4.3 million people - we call on Lee Evans to put a motion before parliament to freeze all CSG activity.

"It is clear the health of drinking water and the environment are still at risk.

"Action needs to match Evans' declaration of support."

Media enquiries: Jess Moore 0416 232 349

To: the Honourable the Speaker & Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales

This petition of citizens of New South Wales draws to the attention of the House that Coal Seam Gas Mining (CSG):

- always involves contaminated water, as extraction of gas draws water out of the coal seam that is highly saline & can contain toxic & radioactive compounds, endocrine disruptors & heavy metals;
- when using hydraulic fracturing (fracking), pollutes large quantities of fresh water with sand & chemicals that are pumped underground;
- is proven to lower the fresh water table; yet exploration licenses have been issued in vital NSW water catchment areas;
- involves leaky wells, processing plants & pipelines that are a fire hazard & cause air pollution;
- risks a range of direct & indirect health impacts such as heart, lung, kidney & neurological problems & cancer; &
- produces greenhouse gas emissions – particularly from large scale methane leakage – such that CSG mining has a global warming impact that is as bad if not worse than coal, over a twenty year period.

We also note that, while the NSW Liberal Government has promised to ban the use of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, & xylenes (BTEX) for the drilling process, this cannot eliminate BTEX from CSG mining. BTEX can occur naturally in coal seams & extraction of water from such seams releases these hazardous compounds.

Your petitioners therefore request the House to:

- call a Royal Commission into all impacts of CSG mining;
- implement a moratorium on CSG mining until the outcome of the Royal Commission; &
- ban the extraction technique known as hydraulic fracturing.

STOP CSG Illawarra
www.stop-csg-sutherland.org

Name	Address	Email	Phone	Signature	Add to contact list Y/N?
LEE EVANS	Shop 1-3 17 STAMON ST	Heathcote@parliament.nsw.gov.au	9599 0198	<i>[Signature]</i>	Y

Petition to protect our water and land – I support a moratorium on Coal Seam Gas

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Please return this form to Jeremy Buckingham, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000

Name	Email Address	Signature	Add me to your e-list
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Keira Ryan Park	keira@parliament.nsw.gov.au	<i>[Signature]</i>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>