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Stop CSG welcomes landmark ruling

Stop CSG Illawarra welcomes yesterday's announcement by NSW Energy and Resources Minister Anthony Roberts to cancel three CSG exploration licences that were breached. All three licences – PEL 468 (Kandos), PEL 469 (Nowra) and PEL 470 (Moree) – were held by Leichardt Resources Pty Ltd. The decision is a landmark ruling. Stop CSG Illawarra spokesperson Jess Moore commented:

"We welcome the announcement. It gives hope to communities fighting to stop CSG development.

"Communities have long been calling for the cancellation of breached licences.

"This decision is a victory for the community and one that sets an important precedent.

"It marks the first cancellation of breached licences, including a 3,173 square kilometre licence over the Illawarra.

"If a company fails to do what is legally required, of course they should lose their licence.

"Leichardt Resources failed to carry out their work program and meet community consultation requirements. The same can be said for the remaining Illawarra licences, and many others across the state.

"All breached licences should be cancelled. And it should not take extraordinary efforts by the community – four years of investigative work and campaigning – to have the Government act on licence conditions they wrote.

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