



**Stop CSG Illawarra**  
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## Expired CSG Licences in the Illawarra

Two CSG exploration licences in the Illawarra — that extend from Lake Illawarra to Helensburgh — have expired. These are Petroleum Exploration Licence 444 in the north and Petroleum Exploration Licence 442 in the South - titles granted by the NSW Government that both define an area for oil or gas exploration and require that exploration activity take place. The licences expired in April and February 2012 respectively. [1][2]

Significantly, these licences contain all CSG wells approved for development in the Illawarra. Both take in parts of the drinking water catchment, including Sydney Catchment Authority Special Areas. Stop CSG Illawarra spokesperson Jess Moore stated:

"The NSW Government must withdraw these licences. This is an opportunity to stop, do the research and make decisions about CSG based on facts.

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

"Licences should never have been issued in the drinking water catchment. Licences should never have been issued before the facts on CSG were in.

"The Illawarra project risks the drinking water of over 4.3 million people in NSW."

Prior to the state election then Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell made a public pledge: "The next National/Liberal Government will ensure that mining cannot occur... in any water catchment area, and will ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense; no ifs, no buts, a guarantee." [3]

In an interview about CSG mining on December 1, 2011 NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell told 2GB's Alan Jones: "I don't intend to allow — particularly after the drought we went through over a decade — mining or any other activity to threaten water resources. He also stated: "[CSG] exploration licences have been granted, in some cases permission to mine has been granted, in areas, frankly, that should never ever have been on the list." [4]

Outside NSW Parliament on on May 1, 2012 NSW Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner stated: "We've been working hard as a Government - given a system which had zero protections but plenty of exploration licences and dodgy deals done, don't worry about that; We've been working hard to get the balance right." [5]

"These words – while positive – are still at odds with reality. Water resources, productive land and communities are at risk and the government is not stopping it.

"The Government should withdraw all CSG licences that O'Farrell and Stoner say should not have been granted or involved dodgy deals.

"Yet what is happening with these Illawarra licences has not been made clear to the public. Where is the transparent process we were promised? Where is the protection of land and water we were promised?

"The Government should put a freeze on the CSG industry pending the results of a Royal Commission; that is, a science-first approach to an industry that demonstrably poses risks."

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[1] <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/titles/status-reports/Petroleum-TitlesCurrent20120501.pdf>

[2] <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/titles/status-reports/Petroleum-TitlesExpired20120501.pdf>

[3] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cZ5Y-P1Z3A>

[4] [http://www.2gb.com/index2.php?option=com\\_newsmanager&task=view&id=10993&mid=541](http://www.2gb.com/index2.php?option=com_newsmanager&task=view&id=10993&mid=541)

[5] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRFYKupTVY8>