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We need a moratorium on all CSG projects

In the lead up to Stop CSG Illawarra's first action – a human sign to express community opposition to coal seam gas mining – the group responds to the NSW government's announcement of a statewide moratorium on new CSG projects. Spokesperson Jess Moore stated:

"This industry cannot be adequately regulated until the full impacts of CSG mining are known. For that we need a Royal Commission.

"It's a step in the right direction, which reflects the strength of community concern and the campaign to date. But ultimately it's inadequate.

"If the government acknowledges the need for a moratorium on new CSG mining projects - given the risks it poses to water and agriculture - it should declare a moratorium on *all* CSG mining, because the same concerns apply.

"The CSG industry cannot be adequately regulated until the full impacts of CSG mining are understood and disclosed for public consumption. For that we need a Royal Commission."

Moore continued:

"We are deeply concerned because CSG mining always involves contaminated water. The extraction of gas draws water out of the coal seam that is highly saline and can contain toxic and radioactive compounds, and heavy metals.

"It is a fire hazard, as wells, processing plants and pipelines leak.

"CSG mining risks a range of health impacts such as heart, lung, kidney and neurological problems and cancer.

"It is particularly outrageous that most of the local approvals are in our drinking water catchment. Penalties of up to \$11,000 apply for even walking in the catchment, yet the government approved CSG mining there!

"It is clear that we must come together as a community to ensure safe drinking water and food, the environment and our health.

Stop CSG Illawarra is campaigning locally for: a Royal Commission into all impacts of CSG mining; a moratorium on CSG mining until the outcome of the Royal Commission; and a ban on fracking.

For media enquiries contact Jess Moore 0416 232 349 or Chris Williams 0425 329 963.

The human sign to express community opposition to coal seam gas takes place this Sunday, May 29, at Austinmer beach. Assembly starts at 11am for 12pm photo.