



Stop CSG Illawarra
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Media conference: community leaders call for CSG free drinking water catchments

Before the last state election, then NSW opposition leader Barry O'Farrell made a promise to ban CSG mining in NSW drinking water catchments. He said: "The next Liberal/National 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."

Yet the NSW Government's draft Strategic Regional Land Use Policy does not rule out CSG development in drinking water catchments. In fact, it does not even classify drinking water catchments as land of strategic importance.

Tomorrow, Illawarra community leaders will come together to petition the state Government to change this; to implement O'Farrell's pre-election promise. The panel will include:

- Gordon Bradbery, Wollongong Lord Mayor
- Ryan Park, Member for Keira
- Sharralyn Robinson, chief executive officer of the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Jess Moore, Spokesperson for Stop CSG Illawarra

Stop CSG Illawarra Spokesperson Jess Moore commented:

"There are five big drinking water catchments managed by the Sydney Catchment Authority. All are covered or encroached on by CSG exploration licences.

"These catchments supply drinking water to two thirds of people in NSW.

"Development consent for CSG wells — approval to drill and run them — has been granted in NSW drinking water catchments. These approvals are not simply a legacy of the previous government. New wells have been approved and drilled in in these areas since O'Farrell took office.

"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.

"It's past time that O'Farrell turn this promise into policy.

The conference will take place at 10am in the Level 9 Function Room, Wollongong City Council building, Burelli Street Wollongong. It will include the launch of a petition to have CSG prospecting and mining banned in NSW drinking water catchments.

For more information contact Chris Williams: 0425 329 963.