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## No plan to ban CSG in catchments

Yesterday stop coal seam gas (CSG) groups from across greater Sydney met with MPs to discuss CSG and drinking water catchment areas. A group representing Stop CSG Illawarra, Stop CSG Sydney Water Catchment, and the Southern Highlands Coal Action Group met with Chris Hartcher, Brad Hazard, and others. Stop CSG Illawarra spokesperson Jess Moore commented:

"We called on the NSW Government to ban all CSG exploration and mining in our drinking water catchments. Hartcher and Hazard have no plan to do this.

"They vigorously defended the current policy, under which CSG licences have been renewed over our drinking water catchments.

"We want the the 2% of land in NSW that supplies the drinking water of 60% of people protected.

"CSG exploration and mining always involves unearthing water that is high in salt and methane, and can contain toxic and radioactive compounds and heavy metals. It involves methane leaks and industrial development that's incompatible with our drinking water catchment."

**Before the last State election, Barry O'Farrell promised such a ban: "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." Stop CSG Sydney Water Catchment spokesperson Brett Cottee commented:**

"We expect this Government to make good on O'Farrell's promise.

"We conveyed the concerns and expectations of our communities.

"We're disappointed that the Chief Scientist is not tasked with identifying parts of NSW that should be off limits to coal seam gas, due to risks and impacts.

"The legislation must change, and our communities will fight this Government until it does."

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