



Stop CSG Illawarra
PO Box 5022, Wollongong NSW 2520
Phone: Jess Moore 0416 232 349
www.stop-csg-illawarra.org
info@stop-csg-illawarra.org

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NSW Gas Plan: no new protections for health, water or farms

The NSW Government today announced its Gas Plan: the plan for the development of coal seam gas (CSG) in NSW. No changes were made today, though the Government mapped its intentions. Stop CSG Illawarra spokesperson Jess Moore commented:

“The plan is big on rhetoric, light on detail.

“It’s a plan to develop CSG, in-line with comments from the Premier this week: ‘Do we want coal seam gas? Absolutely we do.’

“The Government is saying: ‘trust us, we’ll make CSG safe in the near future’. It’s stalling until after the election. In truth, this plan gives us no new protections for health, water or farms.

“The current Government did this in the lead up to the last state election. They promised to ban CSG in our drinking water catchments. Three years later we’re still waiting. It’s hard not to be cynical.

“The plan includes a commitment to compensation. As though money could fix the poisoning of our food and water.

“Under the plan, CSG projects can still be considered in drinking water catchments, and landholders have no right to say ‘no’ to drilling on their land.

“CSG mining always involves drawing water out of the ground that’s high in salt and methane, and can contain toxic and radioactive compounds. It involves methane leaks and industrial development.

“We need to press pause on the industry until changes are in place that protect our land and water. We do not support an approach of ‘adapt when things go wrong’.

“CSG should be banned in our drinking water catchments.

“It should not take extraordinary efforts by the community – years of investigative work and campaigning – to have the Government keep a clear and simple promise.”

Media enquiries: Jess Moore 0416 232 349