



Stop CSG Illawarra
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CSG Industry to Engage in Community Forum this Sunday

Stop CSG Illawarra has organised a community forum on coal seam gas for this Sunday, August 21. The forum will feature a panel of expert speakers, including:

- **Tom Fontaine**, the Managing Director of Ormil Energy, one of the CSG mining companies with approval to drill locally;
- **Alan Lindsay**, a chemical engineer who has held senior executive positions within the oil industry in Australia and overseas, and the coal industry in the Hunter Valley;
- **Kirsty Ruddock**, principal solicitor with the NSW Environmental Defenders Office; and
- **Dr Helen Redmond**, from Doctors for the Environment Australia.

Stop CSG Illawarra spokesperson, Jess Moore, stated:

"Residents are concerned about coal seam gas mining and the mounting evidence about its impact on drinking water, health and the environment.

"Why did over 3,000 people join together on Austinmer Beach in May? This community forum brings a local coal seam gas operator and a panel of experts to the region, for residents to ask questions and better understand the issues.

"The panel will cover issues such as the local project, implications for water contamination, the fracking process, health impacts, what a production field looks like and implications for the stability of the Escarpment.

"Recent government changes will not stop the local approvals from going ahead. This is absurd given evidence of damage already caused by the industry and that it has not been properly investigated.

"The government forgot to investigate before proceeding, so we must. The public has a right to know. Moreover, we have the right to say 'no' if the mounting evidence tells us it's not safe."

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Community Forum on Coal Seam Gas: 11am – 1pm, Sunday August 21, Thirroul District Community Centre