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**Media Release: 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2014**

## **Government fails to protect catchment**

**Today the NSW Government had an opportunity to honour a pre election promise and ban CSG development in the Sydney drinking water catchment Special Areas. The majority chose to vote against the motion being put and forced the Bill to lapse, drawing out discussion with little comment on CSG or our drinking water catchments. Parliament did away with the Bill by stealth today. Jess Moore from Stop CSG Illawarra commented:**

"Today the NSW Government failed to protect our drinking water catchment.

"It broke a clear pre election promise to ban mining in our catchments. It put mining industry profits ahead of the want and needs of two thirds of people in NSW.

"Liberal Party member Ray Williams labelled CSG 'clean energy' on the one hand, while acknowledging CSG drilling poisoned an aquifer with uranium in the Pilliga, and quoting 'science' from Shitsville Express.

"There was a distinct lack of discussion about CSG and our drinking water catchment. Lady Macbeth was being discussed as the Bill lapsed.

"This was a lesson in how to do away with Bill by stealth.

**Before the last State election Barry O'Farrell promised: "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 Illawarra spokesperson Jess Moore commented:**

"Today the Government breached public trust and put our future at risk.

"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 catchments.

"The industry is still trying to set up shop in the catchment, with current exploration licences there.

"The legislation must change, and our community will fight until it does.

"A permanent ban on CSG in drinking water catchment areas is simply common sense."

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