

**From:** "Charlotte Davis" <charlotte.e.davis@gmail.com>  
**To:** <information@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 3/29/2011 9:44 am  
**Subject:** protest proposed expansion of Apex Energy's coal seam gas exploration

To Whom it may concern, Department of Planning,

I realise that I am a little late with this feedback on your proposal, but I believe there is the possibility of having my concerns forwarded nonetheless.

I would like to strongly protest the proposed expansion of Apex Energy's coal seam gas exploration. This is a dangerous and highly unregulated industry. This proposed Apex expansion is apparently just one of scores of new applications being considered or that have recently been approved. Apex Energy's coal seam gas (CSG) project in the Illawarra is of particular concern as it is in a Sydney drinking water catchment area. Apex currently has approval for 15 exploration bore holes and this new additional borehole could potentially involve the dangerous 'fracking' procedure.

Other points I would like to make are:

- The AI19 borehole is in an important Sydney water catchment area and located in pristine bushland.
- Extensive bushland clearing will be necessary around the well site
- Exploration approval will lead to applications for full scale extraction which should never be allowed in the area
- Coal seam gas extraction and exploration are dangerous. There are proven and serious risks including contamination of groundwater and water supplies as well as the leaching of methane causing carbon emissions and human health impacts.
- The area is home to threatened species and forms part of an essential remaining wildlife corridor linking the National Parks to the Illawarra Escarpment and Dharawal State Conservation Area.
- There is potential for the highly dangerous fracking procedure to be used.

Please stop this expansion of dangerous coal seam gas mining in a Sydney drinking water catchment.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Davis