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**To:** Director General <plan\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 8/03/2011 2:51 pm  
**Subject:** Gas Project - Additional Borehole Modification - Assessment 8th March 2011 14:50:37

Mining and Industry Projects  
Department of Planning  
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Sydney NSW 2001

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Subject: Gas Project - Additional Borehole Modification - Assessment

Reference: MP.07 0103 - MOD 1

Dear Director General,

- 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.

I call on Department of Planning to reject this amendment to the previous approval granted to Apex Energy NL for the purpose of additional exploration and gas monitoring borehole with associated infrastructure and site access.

I call on Department of Planning to immediately stop all Part3A applications.

I call on Department of Planning to include ALL previous submissions opposing inappropriate development in this area including:

- 1994 Helensburgh Commission of Inquiry;
- various rounds of submissions from 1995 to 2009 to Wollongong City Council on the rezoning of 7d lands at Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Park;
- over 3,00 submissions against the 2010 Willana Report; and
- the latest submissions in response to the Wollongong City Council "Preliminary Review Report" which total over 18,500 submissions.

Which total well over 45,000 submissions on these environmentally sensitive lands.

I also refer Department of Planning to Premier Keneally's decision to stop the Tillegra Dam in the face of 2,800 submissions against that project.

I quote "The project is not in the public interest" and "...the precautionary principle should be invoked..." and "...uncertainty about the impacts of the project..." and "...is of the view that the proposal is not in the public interest and should be refused..."

If 2,800 submissions can mobilize a Premier to stop a dam, Department of Planning must apply the same

principles used by Premier Keneally in the Tillegra Dam and STOP this project entirely - construction has not started on Sydney Catchment Authority lands and NOW is the time to make sure it NEVER happens.

A two week period for submissions on such an important issue is clearly not in the public interest. I look forward to the Premier personally intervening to stop this project.

Yours faithfully,  
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