

Attention: Director, Mining and Industry Projects
Major Projects Assessment
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

To Whom It May Concern,
Objections to the Modification Proposal 07_0103 MOD2 from Apex Energy N.L.

I write to strongly object to the proposal from Apex Energy to renew and indefinitely extend their 2009 major project to undertake coal seam gas operations in the catchment lands of the Northern Illawarra. Regardless of current Government policy, shaped as it is by royalty interests, scientific uncertainty remains and risk taking in the catchments and high value conservation lands is unacceptable. The Special Areas have already suffered significant damage as a result of coal mining.

The possible impacts of coal seam gas operations have been widely reported and documented. Detailed and informative accounts are found in the submissions to the NSW Parliamentary Coal Seam Gas Inquiry. For example:

- (i) Submission No. 330, Dr Stuart Khan
- (ii) Submission No. 457, Northern Illawarra Sustainability Alliance
- (iii) Submission No. 552, Stop Coal Seam Gas Illawarra

At a public rally before the last election, the then Opposition Leader stated that the next Liberal and National Government would "... ensure mining cannot occur in any water catchment area and that any mining leases and exploration permits will reflect that common sense. No ifs, no buts, a guarantee."

On December 1, 2011 the Premier told 2GB's Alan Jones: "*I don't intend to allow — particularly after the drought we went through over a decade — mining or any other activity to threaten water resources.*" He also stated that "*... exploration licences have been granted, in some cases permission to mine has been granted, in areas, frankly, that should never ever have been on the list.*"

Surely the catchment lands supplying water to Greater Sydney and the Illawarra should surely never have been on that list. There is a ground swell of opposition to coal seam gas mining in the catchments, with large rallies and a petition that now has more than 30,000 signatures. Wollongong City Council, Sutherland Shire Council, Campbelltown City Council and many other council's in NSW are opposed to coal seam gas development. Towns and districts are declaring CSG free zones.

Specific concerns and objections to the current proposal are given below.

Yours faithfully,

Name:
Address:
Date:

I have/have not made a reportable political donation (cross out whichever does not apply).
I request that my name is withheld (remove if not applicable).