



**The Hon Chris Hartcher
Minister for Resources and Energy
Special Minister of State
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MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT SUBMISSION TO CSG INQUIRY

The NSW Government submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Coal Seam Gas has emphasised the need to strike the right balance between resource development, continued agricultural production and environmental protection while meeting the State's future energy needs.

Minister for Resources and Energy, Chris Hartcher has welcomed the Inquiry as an opportunity to examine the development of the relatively new industry in NSW and to further progress community involvement.

"Future economic growth in regional NSW will require balancing development with community interests and the sustainable management of natural resources," Mr Hartcher said.

"Mineral and petroleum resource industries can and do co-exist with agricultural production and environmental protection.

"Co-existence does, however, require the appropriate management and assessment of exploration and production activities and the Government's submission outlines progress being made in this respect.

"Producing just six per cent of its gas needs, NSW remains heavily dependent on imported gas supplies for its energy needs sourced primarily from South Australia and Victoria.

"With evidence suggesting that these sources may be depleting in the foreseeable future and with all states looking to reduce their coal-fired power generation under the Federal Government's proposed Carbon Tax, it is essential that NSW take the necessary action to maintain and increase our own State's energy security.

"Access to affordable gas is essential to help NSW achieve economic growth targets, address greenhouse gas emissions and contain energy price increases."

Mr Hartcher said the Government is aware of concerns held by some sections of the community over Coal Seam Gas exploration and production and is implementing a range of initiatives to improve industry regulation through the Government's Strategic Regional Land Use Policy.

“We have responded to community feedback regarding Coal Seam Gas and continue to seek ongoing community involvement in considering the right balance in managing the Industry’s development in NSW.

“The NSW Government is:

- Improving water management through introducing an *Aquifer Interference Policy* and Regulation;
- Improving land management and land use conflict through the preparation and implementation of *Agricultural Impact Statements* and *Strategic Regional Land Use Plans*;
- Requiring exploration licences to be publicly exhibited prior to approval;
- Reviewing hydraulic fracturing standards and banning the use of BTEX chemicals used in that process.

“We will continue working with regional communities to arrive at the appropriate balance between mining and agriculture.

“The NSW Government views the strategic management of our resources as essential,” Mr Hartcher said.

The NSW Government submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Coal Seam Gas is available for viewing on the [NSW Parliament website](#).