



The Hon Chris Hartcher

Minister for Resources and Energy

Special Minister of State

Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW Government Considers Lightning Ridge Review

The NSW Government is considering recommendations from the Wilcox Report commissioned to look into the problems facing landholders affected by opal claims in Lightning Ridge.

Minister for Resources and Energy, Chris Hartcher said the Government is currently looking closely at a number of the recommendations with a focus on the levels of compensation to landholders affected by minerals claims.

Chief Justice of the Industrial Relations Court and former Federal Court judge, Murray Wilcox, was commissioned by the NSW Government to undertake the review.

“Earlier this year, Mr Wilcox met with landholders and miners and heard first hand their accounts of the situation in the Lightning Ridge area,” Mr Hartcher said.

“There are a number of valid concerns held by both parties.

“It’s important that we don’t rush these considerations and make sure they’re thoroughly reviewed to ensure all concerns are addressed.”

During the course of the independent review, Mr Wilcox met with representatives of the Department, landholders, the NSW Farmers Association, mining associations, miners, State and Local Government bodies and members of the public. The review also accepted written submissions from interested parties.

“The former Government commissioned four reviews looking at issues affecting Lightning Ridge over sixteen years. Labor failed to act on a single one of them,” Mr Hartcher said.

“The Liberal & Nationals Government is finally addressing this important issue and taking the necessary steps to address concerns held.”