



The Hon Anthony Roberts MP

Minister for Resources and Energy

Special Minister of State

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT ENFORCES CSG LICENCE REQUIREMENTS AND TARGETS NON-COMPLIANCE

Minister for Resources and Energy Anthony Roberts today announced that the NSW Government will target operators that have not met the conditions of their CSG exploration licences and proponents that have submitted deficient applications.

Mr Roberts said the NSW Government will refuse five Petroleum Exploration Licence Applications (PELAs 153-157) lodged by Grainger Energy on 14 November 2013, which cover 43,100 square kilometres of the Riverina.

“We are targeting individuals or companies that have lodged an application or have been granted a PEL, yet do not have the financial security or industry expertise to meet the highest standards for the CSG industry,” Mr Roberts said.

“The Office of Coal Seam Gas has found that the proponent (Grainger Energy) does not have a technical understanding of the existing geological information in the region, has provided scarce work programs that are not sufficient to effectively explore the large areas covered by the application and that the proponent has significantly underestimated the costs of the work program that they have proposed.

“It is considered that the proponent lacks the financial and technical capabilities to undertake the work program it has proposed within the NSW regulatory framework.”

Mr Roberts said the NSW Government will also issue a ‘Show Cause’ notice to Leichhardt Resources as to why its three Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs 468-470) near Moree, across Nowra and between Bylong and Denman, should not be cancelled.

“These PELs were granted on 30 April 2009 and renewed in February 2013 and are due to expire on 30 April 2018,” he said.

“Under the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991, a petroleum title may be cancelled on a number of grounds, including contravention of conditions, failure to use the title area in good faith for the purpose for which the title was granted and for contraventions of the Act.

“Leichhardt Resources will be given 21 days to respond.”

“We are sending a strong message that the NSW Government takes compliance with licence conditions seriously,” he said.

“It may have been good enough for NSW Labor to handout licences to anyone but that is not in line with community expectations and certainly does not meet the Liberals & Nationals Government’s commitment to the highest standards for the CSG industry.

“The NSW Government will continue to ensure we have the highest possible regulations in place for the CSG industry.”