



The Hon Chris Hartcher

Minister for Resources and Energy

Special Minister of State

Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

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WILCOX CONSULTATION PERIOD EXTENDED

Resources Minister Chris Hartcher today announced the extension of the public consultation period for the Wilcox Report into opal mining at Lightning Ridge following consultation with the NSW Farmers Association.

Heavy rain and subsequent flooding in Northern NSW has delayed some aspects of consultation, necessitating a two-week extension of the public comment period.

Submissions will now close on 7 March 2012.

Chief Justice of the Industrial Relations Court and former Federal Court judge, Murray Wilcox, was commissioned by the NSW Government to undertake the review into the problems facing landholders affected by opal claims in Lightning Ridge.

“In his review, Mr Wilcox made a number of recommendations relating to opal mining at Lightning Ridge and it is important that local farmers, opal miners and residents are given the chance to comment on those recommendations,” Mr Hartcher said.

“There are a number of valid concerns held by all parties so it’s important that all recommendations are thoroughly reviewed to ensure all concerns are addressed.

“Understandably, local farmers and other businesses have been concentrating on recovery efforts after recent flooding.”

The Wilcox Report can be viewed at www.minerals.nsw.gov.au

Submissions are invited by email to minerals.comments@industry.nsw.gov.au

or by post addressed to: **Wilcox Report Comments**

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