



**The Hon Chris Hartcher**  
**Minister for Resources and Energy**  
**Special Minister of State**  
**Minister for the Central Coast**

---

**MEDIA RELEASE**

---

Wednesday 20 June 2012

**STATEMENT ON METGASCO**

The O'Farrell Government has banned the use of evaporation ponds for coal seam gas production.

No coal seam gas evaporation ponds of any type have been approved by the Government since it came to power.

Comments from certain sections of the community refer to a pond which was recently approved by Richmond Valley Council and is currently under construction by Metgasco.

Council is entitled to approve the construction of dams.

The Division of Resources and Energy has advised Metgasco that should it wish to use the dam for CSG activities, it will need further approval from the Division.

Metgasco's activities remain within the law.

Evaporation ponds are typically used to concentrate salt and are specially constructed to achieve this.

Temporary storage dams in contrast need to be part of a water management system, which includes options for the disposal of water without the use of evaporation ponds.

The NSW Government will not approve any activities which place our natural environment at risk.