



Troy Grant MP
Deputy Premier of NSW
Minister for Trade and Investment

Anthony Roberts MP
Minister for Resources and Energy
Special Minister of State

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GAS PLAN PROTECTING WHAT'S VALUABLE, SECURING OUR FUTURE

Legislation to extinguish 16 Petroleum Exploration Licence Applications (PELAs) has been passed by the NSW Parliament, NSW Deputy Premier Troy Grant and Minister for Resources and Energy Anthony Roberts have announced.

Mr Grant said the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (NSW Gas Plan) Bill 2014 had passed just one week after the NSW Government declared a major overhaul of the way the Coal Seam Gas (CSG) industry would be managed in the future.

"One of the key actions in the NSW Gas Plan was to extinguish 16 PEL applications stretching across 43 per cent of the State," Mr Grant said.

"This is the first step in allowing the NSW Government to reset and move forward from Labor's legacy of incompetence, to a gas industry on our terms.

"The Government will decide which areas will be released and to whom under a new Strategic Release Framework.

"This will enable the Government to identify appropriate areas for gas exploration after a careful assessment of economic, environmental and social factors, with community consultation to be conducted up-front."

Mr Roberts said the title area would then go out for expressions of interest so the Government could identify the most suitable and capable proponents.

"This will draw on the new approach to coal exploration recommended by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC)," Mr Roberts said.

"The freeze on new applications will remain until the new system is in place."

The NSW Government accepted an amendment by the Christian Democratic Party in the Legislative Council.

The amendment will give current applicants, whose applications have been expunged, first right to apply should the area they had under application be released under the new Strategic Release Framework, for a proposed future title.

Mr Roberts said under the former Labor Government, PELs were handed out like confetti for just \$1,000 each.

“Labor provided little oversight and management of the gas industry,” Mr Roberts said.

“In contrast, the Liberals & Nationals Government is committed to delivering world’s best practice regulation of the industry to protect our water, agricultural land, environment and other critical industries.

“The NSW Government’s Gas Plan spells out how we will deliver best practice regulation, while increasing gas supplies and putting downward pressure on gas prices for the State’s households and businesses.

“We have listened to the concerns of the community, industry and independent experts in the CSG field.

“The NSW Government is committed to growing our local gas supply in a safe and environmentally sustainable way, protecting our water, land and other industries.”

For more information visit: www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au