



# Brad Hazzard MP

## Minister for Planning & Infrastructure

### Minister assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

---

#### MEDIA RELEASE

---

Thursday 21 March 2013

### NEW COAL SEAM GAS RULES

Tough new rules to strengthen regulation of the Coal Seam Gas (CSG) industry are a step closer with the NSW Government releasing its proposed Mining SEPP changes.

A proposed amendment to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining SEPP) is now on exhibition for public feedback **until Friday 12 April 2013**.

“The amendment seeks to prohibit CSG exploration and production activity within two kilometres of residential zones and proposed future residential areas. Drilling underneath these zones will also be prohibited,” Planning and Infrastructure Minister Brad Hazzard said.

“CSG activities will also be excluded from land identified as a Critical Industry Cluster – which includes the Upper Hunter horse breeding and wine making industries.

“Once finalised, the policy will ensure CSG exploration and production activities cannot occur in country towns, suburbs, villages and critical industry clusters across NSW.

“These new restrictions build on the NSW Government’s Strategic Regional Land Use Policy, which provides the toughest set of CSG regulations in Australia.

“Just as we did throughout the 18 months of consultation for the Strategic Regional Land Use Policy, we’ve listened to the community and acted.

“Exclusion zones are part of additional measures being put in place by the Government to address community concerns about CSG.

“The Environment Protection Authority will be the lead regulator of environmental and health impacts for CSG activities in NSW.

“The State’s Chief Scientist and Engineer, Professor Mary O’Kane will conduct an independent review of CSG activities in NSW, including any potential impact on water catchments.

“These changes provide certainty for the community while ensuring that the industry can continue to meet the State’s energy needs,” Mr Hazzard said.

The draft Mining SEPP can be viewed at: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/onexhibition](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/onexhibition)

**MEDIA: Adam Raskall 0409 565 083**