



# **The Hon Anthony Roberts MP**

## **Minister for Resources and Energy**

### **Special Minister of State**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013

### **NSW CHAMPIONS CHIEF SCIENTIST'S RECOMMENDATIONS NATIONALLY**

Minister for Resources and Energy Anthony Roberts said a NSW driven initiative to look at options for establishing a national environmental data repository was agreed to by Commonwealth, State and Territory resources and energy Ministers in Sydney today.

The Standing Council on Energy and Resources (SCER) has also agreed to consider the development of a national or east coast framework for environmental data and subsidence surveys.

A national environmental data repository and subsidence database were key recommendations from NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, Mary O'Kane, in her initial report on the Independent Review of Coal Seam Gas Activities in NSW which was released in July this year.

Mr Roberts welcomed the unanimous agreement and said the aim is to increase access to information so that the community is able to see and understand the level of environmental assessment and scientific knowledge that is relied upon when approving major resource projects.

"The NSW Government is committed to an open data policy which makes information more accessible to the public and industry to stimulate innovative approaches to service delivery," Mr Roberts said.

NSW is also committed to giving the community and industry access to information and being open and transparent about how decisions are made.

"NSW is delighted to be leading the way on this important initiative.

"We welcome the support of the other States and their co-operation on such a vital issue."

Proposing a national environmental data repository continues NSW's pre-eminent role in driving access to information.

Other important measures undertaken by the NSW Government include:

- Publishing information for the community on the location and status of coal seam gas wells in NSW and providing a one stop shop information resource at [www.csg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.csg.nsw.gov.au)
- An Aquifer Interference Policy to protect water resources;
- A Code of Practice for CSG fracture stimulation activities; and
- A Code of Practice for CSG Well Integrity.