



The Hon Chris Hartcher

Minister for Resources and Energy

Special Minister of State

Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT CALLS FOR URANIUM EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The NSW Government is calling for expressions of interest for exploration licences following the proclamation of legislation to overturn the 26 year ban on uranium exploration, Resources Minister Chris Hartcher announced today.

“The NSW Government is now welcoming expressions of interest from parties that wish to explore for Group 11 Minerals, which includes uranium and thorium,” Mr Hartcher said.

“This is a new area of exploration and a new opportunity to create an industry which will give the State’s economy a real boost. We must look for every opportunity to join the resource boom underway in Western Australia, Queensland and South Australia.”

Parties wishing to register an expression of interest to explore for uranium and thorium minerals may do so by contacting the Division of Resources and Energy in the Department of Trade and Investment.

Expressions of interest will be limited to areas of approximately 300km² or less, but there will be no limit to the number of separate applications.

On the basis of the applications received the Government will select individuals, companies or consortia which will then be invited to apply for an exploration licence on the basis of the best interests of the state.

Applications will be received for a period of 60 days until 13 November 2012, after which time an expert panel will assess the applications and make recommendations to the Government.

“Uranium mining and exploration receives bipartisan support at a Federal level and a number of States have the capacity to both mine and explore for uranium,” Mr Hartcher said.

“This exploration policy is supported by former Premier Bob Carr, AWU boss Paul Howes and Federal Labor Resources Minister Martin Ferguson.

“Proclamation of the legislation brings NSW into line with Queensland where uranium exploration is allowed but uranium mining is prohibited. In NSW, the ban on uranium mining will remain in force.”