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NSW GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN RESOURCES INDUSTRY

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has announced \$50 million will be invested into the mining and gas industries to ensure they remain world class.

Minister for Resources and Energy Anthony Roberts said the NSW Government is driving investment to ensure compliance with its comprehensive regulations and to guarantee an affordable and reliable energy supply for the State.

“The NSW Government will invest \$30 million in compliance and information to ensure best practice standards in our mining and gas industries,” Mr Roberts said.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government established the Strategic Regional Land Use Policy for the mining and gas industries and this policy has set the most comprehensive conditions for the gas industry in Australia.

“Since coming to Government in 2011, we have implemented 30 major reforms in the coal seam gas industry. This includes the establishment of the Office of Coal Seam Gas to regulate the industry and appointing the NSW Land and Water Commissioner Jock Laurie to oversee fair land access agreements between landholders and industry.

“We have set a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential and village areas, introduced an Aquifer Interference Policy, Codes of Practice for Well Integrity and Fracture Stimulation and banned the use of harmful BTEX chemicals and evaporation ponds.

“These decisions haven’t been made lightly and strike the balance so agriculture and the resource sector can co-exist.

“The NSW Government will continue to invest \$15 million on geoscience activities including the New Frontiers exploration programme in line with the NSW 2021 Plan to restore economic growth and establish NSW as the first place in Australia to do business.

“This initiative provides a co-contribution of up to \$200,000 for an individual project with NSW explorers. The pre-exploration data collection initiative will attract new exploration and investment to the State in new frontiers.

Rehabilitation of derelict mines will be funded by \$4 million to help identify issues in regional areas and to protect those communities.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has again proven a strong desire for investment across the State to improve life for future generations, protected through robust regulations and compliance standards,” Mr Roberts said.