



The Hon Chris Hartcher
Minister for Resources and Energy
Special Minister of State
Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

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STATEMENT ON EASTERN STAR GAS PROSECUTION

I am advised that the Department of Trade and Investment has initiated prosecution action for breaches of the *Petroleum Onshore Act* which occurred between 2010 and 2011 during the latter days of Eastern Star Gas' activities in the Pilliga near Narrabri.

There are serious allegations that Eastern Star Gas failed to notify the Department of a spill of untreated water, as well as failing to lodge environmental management reports.

I am advised that action is not possible by the Department against Eastern Star Gas or their Directors given the sale of the company to Santos in November 2011.

It is for this reason that proceedings have commenced against Santos.

Amendments to the Act currently before Parliament will enable the prosecution of Directors in any future cases.