

# Further pleas on CSG drilling in Illawarra catchment

By KATE McILWAIN Nov. 18, 2014, 9:28 p.m.



Another fortnight, another Wollongong City Council meeting, and another impassioned motion about coal seam gas mining in water catchment areas.

For the third time since the end of last month, it will be front and centre at next week's meeting, as Liberal councillor John Dorahy persists with his move to congratulate the NSW government for cancelling a couple of exploration licences.

The issue was raised by Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbery on October 27, when councillors agreed to thank the government for listening to its concerns.

They also agreed to reiterate a strong opposition to CSG exploration in the Illawarra and ask the government to keep investigating other non-compliant licences.

Two weeks later, the Greens' George Takacs touched on CSG when he called for more consistent climate change policies from the state.

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At the same meeting, Greg Petty successfully urged the council to declare the region a "CSG-free zone".

Cr Dorahy originally planned to raise his motion - which will essentially repeat the Lord Mayor's congratulations with slightly different words - at the November 10 meeting, but was unable to attend.

He told the Mercury the idea to say thanks was his originally, which was why he was still intent on putting up the motion even though a slightly different version had already been passed.

According to the council business papers published this week, Cr Dorahy will also "encourage the state government to continue its assertive approach" towards coal seam gas exploration compliance.

He will also take a dig at Labor, saying the Coalition had "wisely taken a sword to the blind stance of the previous [government] which provided numerous exploration licences without full and complete justification or concern for the state's future water resources".

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