

GREG PETTY - Independent Candidate for Heathcote

MEDIA RELEASE

Independent Heathcote Candidate takes coal and gas strategy scoping paper to the people of NSW for their input 7 February 2011



Greg Petty highlights another classic example where residents have no say in the decision making process. And asks who will be left with the monetary and social impact of these decisions?

Heathcote's Independent Candidate, Greg Petty is inviting all New South Wales residents to have their say about the future of coal seam gas (CSG) mining in the state.

NSW Department of Planning this week's released (Wed 2/2/11) a scoping paper seeking input to guide the preparation of a NSW Coal and Gas Strategy. Mr. Petty has launched an e-submission campaign through his website, www.gregpetty.com.au to facilitate a quick and easy personalised submission which should take only 30 seconds to complete.

The scoping paper will be on exhibition for 10 weeks, with submissions closing mid-April after the NSW election. "With a change of government likely, we need to hear from the Liberal party its response to this Strategy" Mr. Petty stated. "We have seen the (Liberal) announcement to link the Dharawal State Conservation Area to Royal National Park only for it to run aground just 24 hours later. Existing RailCorp wildlife fencing from Engadine to Coalcliff and BHP Billiton contradicting whether it will give up its (BHP) mining rights clouded the announcement".

Minister Kelly has commented "need to undertake careful planning for the future of the coal mining and coal seam gas industries in NSW, due to this continuing international demand" and "We want to ensure that growth of the industry is not at the expense of environmental qualities, and that the coal industry is able to co-exist with other industries such as agriculture." Can we then hear from Mr. O'Farrell and he answer the attached questions?

The Heathcote electorate directly features in the report "Concerns about the subsidence impacts of mining, principally in the Illawarra Region, both on the natural environment (rivers, creeks, swamps, and other sensitive features), and consequently Sydney's water supply, and major infrastructure". Mr. Petty asked "These issues are certainly worth fighting to preserve, imagine fraccing Woronora Dam for international demand!

Has Minister Kelly already rejected the first community group planning proposal over these very same lands? It is hard to believe NSW DoP is serious about public input when the Departments Southern Region Director stated the Otford Protection Society Inc document would "create a precedent". Mr. Petty asks "Is the Planning Minister against the environment? Is the Strategy window dressing in the name of appearances for public consultation?"

A stakeholder reference group has also been established to assist in developing the strategy. The group does NOT have any direct representation for NSW residents. "This is why I set up the e-submission, so the government can hear the pleas of mums and dads to stop the plundering of NSW's heritage and natural beauty for international demand. CSG is already considered the next asbestos" stated Mr. Petty. "What will the monetary and social impact be to Heathcote, NSW, and indeed Australia?"

The committee working on the Strategy would be well advised to co-opt a member of the public, & I'm available!

Media Contact:

Greg Petty's Office
Greg Petty (0407) 473 889
greg@gregpetty.com.au
www.gregpetty.com.au

Greg Petty is supported by John Hatton



Authorised by: Greg Petty 130 Walker Street, Helensburgh NSW 2508

Questions on Coal Seam Gas in Heathcote and Illawarra

- 1 Is the Opposition aware that the previously zoned 7D environmentally sensitive lands of Helensburgh/Otford region (including Darkes Forest, Stanwell Park and Stanwell Tops) has been recently zoned as E3 Environmental Management?
- 2 Is the Opposition aware that Apex Energy NL has been granted Part 3A approval for 15 Coal Seam Gas (Methane) Drilling Wells in the same area as [1] above?
- 3 Is the Opposition aware that approval has been sought for a Methane Gas Power Station in the same area as [1] above?
- 4 Is the Opposition aware that Apex Energy NL has sought an amendment to its Part 3A application for one additional CSG Drill Well? Will the Opposition support this application? Has there been “some” construction but no drilling yet” on this amendment BEFORE approval?
- 5 If the amendment is presented for approval to a new Minister for Planning after March 26 from the Liberals, would the Planning Minister approve the amendment?
- 6 Will the Opposition rule out gas mining in all of the areas mentioned 1 to 5 above?
- 7 Has the Opposition Leader inspected the Apex Energy gas well sites at Darkes Forest and Helensburgh, those on Sydney Catchment Authority Land or Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water Land?
- 8 Does the Opposition agree poor planning and resource development decisions from both sides of NSW Parliament need to be addressed head on if Southern Sydney's ecosystems are to remain viable?
- 9 Will the Opposition comply with new Labor Policy to disclose ingredients used in the fracking process?
- 10 Will the Opposition if elected at March 2011 release full documentation on the RailCorp contract for wildlife fencing between Engadine and Coalcliff?
- 11 Is the Opposition aware an application under the EPBC Act has been made on Illawarra Coal Seam Mining “Wollongong – Illawarra coal seam gas exploration drilling and gas monitoring program”?
- 12 Will the Opposition oppose this application? http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/epbc_ap.pl?name=current_referral_detail&proposal_id=5821
- 13 Will the Opposition seek an explanation why this application states 16 Gas Well sites when only 15 Gas Well sites were approved? The amendment for an additional Gas Well sites hasn't already even been lodged on Department of Planning website for consideration!

Background Articles and Links

<http://www.gregpetty.com.au/public/pdfs/press-release-ofarrell-fenced.pdf>

<http://www.gregpetty.com.au/public/pdfs/questions-on-dharawal-sca.pdf>

<http://www.theleader.com.au/news/local/news/politics/deer-fence-no-defence/2062247.aspx?storypage=0>

<http://www.otfordeco.com/planning/GatewayApplicationfor2508.pdf>