

GREG PETTY

MEDIA RELEASE



Petty lodges **“Petroleum Exploration Licence application to challenge falsity of Environmental Assessment”**

Helensburgh resident and anti-CSG campaigner Greg Petty has lodged a series of Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) applications to the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

The three applications are for PEL's over NSW [Consolidated Coal Lease \(CCL\) 703](#) (Helensburgh Peabody Mine), [PEL 442](#) and [PEL 444](#) (Apex Energy NL [Apex]) at Helensburgh and Darkes Forest. These applications have as nominee *“The People of 2508 and Wollongong Local Government Area”*.

Mr. Petty stated *“I believe this will be the first community application to protect areas from CSG exploration in the sensitive water catchment areas of Northern Illawarra and Sydney”*.

It is understood CCL 703 has no existing PEL over the area other than a small portion covered by PEL's 442 and 444.

Mr. Petty has written to NSW Department of Planning (DoP) requesting them to deny the [16th borehole application](#) over PEL's 442 and 444, and to review the original application for the 15 boreholes based on the [falsity of information](#) provided in the Apex Environmental Assessment (EA). *“The Department of Planning has **NO** expertise to assess such applications as determined by an [independent professional company](#)”* stated Mr. Petty.

Further [cross checking](#) of the original 15 boreholes EA and the 16th borehole amendment EA shows transposition of number errors to a factor of 10. *“Obviously the approval was more important than content and accuracy of the application data and content. The NSW Department of Planning has put Sydney's and the Illawarra's drinking water in danger of pollution. The Minister must rescind the Licences on the grounds that the conditions of the Licences have not been met and protect our drinking water”* stated Mr. Petty.

Mr. Petty contends *“APEX has now breached both PEL's and believes the Minister must step in and protect the community, its water supply, and the environment. A slap on the wrist is **NOT** appropriate in this case”*.

“The DoP cannot deny the various problems with the Apex proposal. The public expects the DoP not to change the processes to allow exploration but revoke the approvals” stated Mr. Petty *“the DoP must insist on a new Environmental Assessment which the community can have full input”*.

Mr. Petty is challenging the CSG industry to come clean on the industry in light of a recent [advertising campaign](#). *“The industry should agree to have every Environment Assessment on approved and new applications reviewed by independent experts appointed by the community, paid for by the industry. Only then will there be transparency and independence in the decision making and approval process”* stated Mr. Petty.

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06 Sep 2011

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