











enquiries refer  
**Simon Scott**  
in reply please quote  
**Coal Seam Gas (13/61704)**



Date

Director Assessment Policy  
Systems & Stakeholder Engagement  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Public Exhibition – Coal Seam Gas**

I refer to the Department's public exhibition of information relating to the regulation of Coal Seam Gas (CSG) activities in New South Wales. In particular I refer to the following:

- Coal seam gas exclusion zone mapping; and
- Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land Mapping.

With respect to the above, the Council provides the following submission for the Government's consideration.

Council notes that the CSG exclusion zone has previously been extended to include some rural settlements ("villages"), where these are zoned R5 Large Lot Residential Zone under the local environmental plan that applies to the land. Examples local to the NSW Far North Coast include Goonengerry in Byron Shire and Modanville in Lismore LGA.

It is submitted that the approach to the identification of rural settlements for the purpose of CSG exclusion zones does not appear to recognise that a variety of zones have been used in relation to rural settlements in the Far North Coast region of NSW. For example, Nimbin, in Lismore LGA, is zoned RU5 Rural (Village) Zone under the terms of the *Lismore Local Environmental Plan 2012* and in the case of Ballina Shire, rural settlements are zoned for rural purposes.

It is submitted that a number of these rural settlements are of a scale and character that is consistent with the above local R5 zone exclusions. It is suggested that such similarity exists where these rural settlements have a commercial hub and school, as is the case in Tintenbar and Newrybar, located in Ballina Shire. Consequently, it is requested that Government include the rural settlements of Tintenbar and Newrybar in the CSG exclusion zones, to achieve consistency in the application of CSG exclusion areas in the region.

With respect to the exhibited maps of 'Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land', I note that the mapping does not accurately reflect the full extent of State and Regionally Significant Farmland identified through the Northern Rivers Farmland Protection Project (NRFPP). The NRFPP was undertaken by the NSW Government for the purpose of identifying significant high quality farmland worthy of protection under the NSW planning system. It is noted that the significance of the high quality farmland identified in the NRFPP is recognised in Ministerial Direction No.

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5.3 made under Section 117 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Consequently, the Council requests that all land identified as 'State Significant Farmland' and 'Regionally Significant Farmland' in the Northern Rivers Farmland Protection Project be appropriately recognised in the CSG strategic agricultural land mapping.

If you have any enquiries in regard to this matter please contact Council's Simon Scott on telephone 6686 1432.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Barnier  
**Group Manager**  
**Strategic & Community Facilities Group**