

**GREG PETTY - Independent Candidate for Heathcote**

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Independent Heathcote Candidate takes coal seam gas mining on Sydney Water Catchment lands to the people**

**10 February 2011**



**Greg Petty calls on Premier to intervene and apply same standards used with Tillegra Dam to STOP coal seam gas exploration in Illawarra**

Heathcote's Independent Candidate, Greg Petty is inviting all Sutherland Shire and Illawarra residents to have their say about the future of gas mining in the area.

In light of this week's submission of a gas mine proposed for the northern Illawarra escarpment, Mr Petty has placed an e-submission form on his website, [www.gregpetty.com.au](http://www.gregpetty.com.au)

The environmentally sensitive lands of Helensburgh/Otford/Stanwell Tops/Darkes Forest lay between the Dharawal reserve and the Royal National Park.

These lands were rezoned by Wollongong City Council in the 2009 LEP Wollongong to a range of zonings that effectively lessened the environmental protection previously afforded by the old classification.

Unknown to residents and not mentioned in the LEP documentation, an Apex Energy NL proposal for 15 drill well sites for Coal Seam Gas (Methane) mining and a Methane Power Station had been granted under Part 3A application by the current Director General Planning NSW in this area. This is despite council's ongoing public land review for the same area.

Department of Planning website records now indicate an amendment to the Apex proposal for an additional drill well site, immediately adjacent to Dharawal SCA and Woronora Dam. Drilling is planned on Sydney Water Catchment lands.

Over 45,000 submissions have been lodged with Wollongong City Council against this type of development.

Mr. Petty has called on the Premier to intervene stating "If 2,800 submissions can mobilize a Premier to stop a dam, Department of Planning must apply the same principles used by Premier Keneally in the Tillegra Dam and STOP this project entirely – construction has not started on Sydney Catchment Authority lands and NOW is the time to make sure it NEVER happens".

"Submissions close 23 February 2011 although a two week period on such an important issue is clearly not in the public interest" stated the Independent Candidate for Heathcote.

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

## E-Submission

Mining and Industry Projects  
Department of Planning  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Fax: (02) 9228 6466

Email: [plan\\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Subject: Gas Project - Additional Borehole Modification - Assessment

Reference: MP.07 0103 – MOD 1

Dear Director General,

I call on Department of Planning to reject this amendment to the previous approval granted to Apex Energy NL for the purpose of additional exploration and gas monitoring borehole with associated infrastructure and site access.

I call on Department of Planning to immediately stop all Part3A applications.

I call on Department of Planning to include ALL previous submissions opposing inappropriate development in this area including:

1994 Helensburgh Commission of Inquiry;

various rounds of submissions from 1995 to 2009 to Wollongong City Council on the rezoning of 7d lands at Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Park;

over 3,000 submissions against the 2010 Willana Report; and

the latest submissions in response to the Wollongong City Council "Preliminary Review Report" which total over 18,500 submissions,

which total well over 45,000 submissions on these environmentally sensitive lands.

I also refer Department of Planning to Premier Keneally's decision to stop the Tillegra Dam in the face of 2,800 submissions against that project.

I quote "The project is not in the public interest" and "...the precautionary principle should be invoked..." and "...uncertainty about the impacts of the project..." and "...is of the view that the proposal is not in the public interest and should be refused..."

If 2,800 submissions can mobilize a Premier to stop a dam, Department of Planning must apply the same principles used by Premier Keneally in the Tillegra Dam and STOP this project entirely – construction has not started on Sydney Catchment Authority lands and NOW is the time to make sure it NEVER happens.

A two week period for submissions on such an important issue is clearly not in the public interest. I look forward to the Premier personally intervening to stop this project.

Yours faithfully,

### ***Background Articles and Links***

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

<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>

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