

# GREG PETTY *MEDIA RELEASE*



Independent Candidate for Lord Mayor / Ward 1 Councillor

## **Petty says: Federal Private Members “CSG” Bill excludes Illawarra water supply**

Federal Legislative Council Senator Larissa Waters’ is preparing a private members [bill](#) to submit to the Australian Parliament giving farmers the right to deny coal seam gas (CSG) miners access to their land, thereby protecting prime agricultural land. The bill being drafted does not include any mention our nation’s water supply.

Senator Larissa Waters (Queensland), who will introduce the bill, said the issue was particularly important in the Darling Downs food belt of southern Queensland, where about 40,000 CSG drill holes were planned, as reported in *The Age*. Greg Petty, Independent Candidate for Lord Mayor has written to Senator Waters requesting the bill be extended to include water catchment areas plus significant parks and nature reserves. *“Farming requires significant water to grow the crops, it seems inconsistent to protect the land if water is not included in the same protection”* stated Mr. Petty.

*“The Illawarra receives its water supply from Woronora Dam and natural areas such as Royal National Park, Illawarra Escarpment, Garrawarra State Recreation Area, Dharawal State Recreation Area and Dharawal Nature Reserve are all under threat from Petroleum Exploration Licenses issued to Apex Energy NL for CSG exploration”* stated Mr. Petty.

Mr. Petty recently petitioned Wollongong City Council to pass a [resolution](#) *“requesting a moratorium on all Coal Seam Gas (CSG) mining exploration and fracking in NSW, more specifically a moratorium on CSG mining and fracking practices along the Illawarra escarpment and within the confines of Wollongong LGA.....Unreservedly acknowledge the importance of Woronora Dam in its role as the primary water source to the Northern Illawarra, and the risk of contamination of the water supply is far too great, Wollongong City Council demands the Petroleum Exploration License’s be rescinded immediately”*.

If elected Mayor, Mr. Petty would work with other Councillors to see this motion adopted by the new Council.

Significant concerns have been raised with the Environmental Assessment provided by Apex Energy NL with independent reports showing the documentation supplied to the Department of Planning contained critical errors that could result in polluting our water supply. A statement from [Dr. Steve Short](#), consultant to Apex, stated *“adopted design storm durations and intensities were incorrect as you identified..... I accept full responsibility for missing those errors as I had actually reviewed that part of the EA before release”*.

Mr. Petty has written to the Department of Planning (DoP) seeking the Minister to refuse the [16<sup>th</sup> borehole amendment](#) and rescind the approval for the original 15 boreholes.

Newly elected Heathcote MP Mr. Lee Evans despite campaigning in the March State election to protect our water supply, has not replied nor acknowledged receipt of the submission to DoP. Mr. Petty also a candidate at the State election was supported by legendary anti-corruption campaigner and former south coast MP John Hatton.



Photo taken in Dharawal Nature Reserve at a CSG borehole location on 08/02/2011

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