

## THE SOLUTION

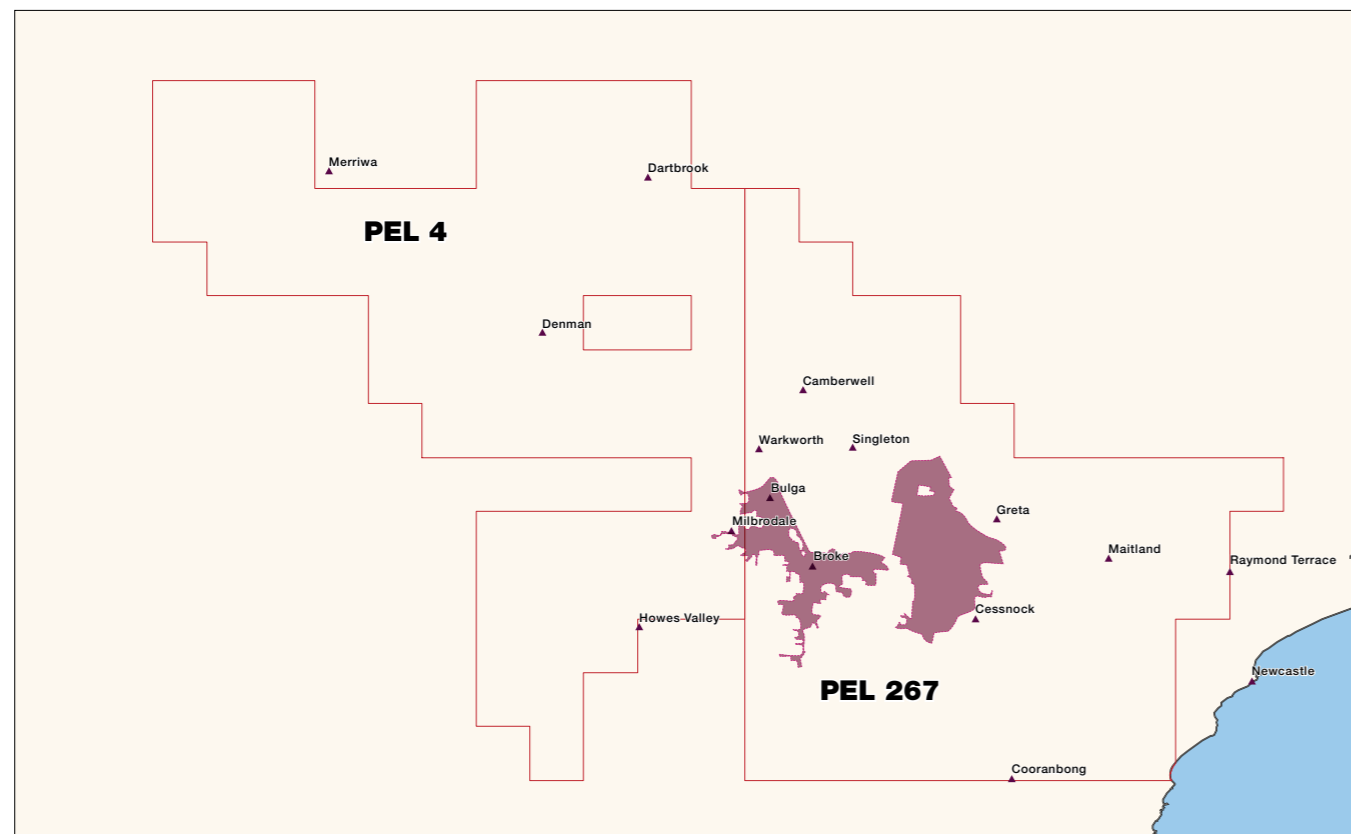
The solution is for the NSW Government to implement a “ring-fencing” policy to protect key, iconic vineyard and tourism areas of the Hunter Valley from any form of over development or industrial activity - including CSG exploration and mining.

Such a move would be in line with policies already being implemented by the State Governments of Western Australia and South Australia to maintain the integrity, landscapes and international reputation of key wine and tourism regions including Margaret River, the Barossa and McLaren Vale.

**Hasty action is vital** to ensure one of Australia’s key areas for wine production and tourism is neither environmentally nor aesthetically compromised by encroaching CSG exploration, and it is protected for future generations.



Hunter Valley 2011



Hunter Valley  
Protection Alliance

AGL Gas PELs 4 and 267  
(Please note map is not to scale)

**LEGEND**  
 ▲ Towns  
 ■ Proposed ring fenced area  
 □ PELs



Chinchilla, QLD CSG Fields 2011  
Hunter Valley in the future?

# PROTECT THE HUNTER VALLEY FROM COAL SEAM GAS MINING

The future viability of the iconic Hunter Valley wine and tourism region is at stake as a result of invasive industrial activity – in the form of mining for coal seam gas (CSG).

The introduction of a protective ‘ring-fence’ by the NSW Government would secure the future of the Hunter Valley for generations to come.

[www.huntervalleyprotectionalliance.com](http://www.huntervalleyprotectionalliance.com)

# THE FUTURE VIABILITY OF THE ICONIC HUNTER VALLEY WINE AND TOURISM REGION IS AT STAKE AS A RESULT OF INVASIVE INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY – IN THE FORM OF MINING FOR COAL SEAM GAS (CSG).

Current Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs) already encroach upon localities globally recognised for the rarity of their vines and quality of wine produced. This dynamic, highly productive landscape deserves safeguarding from incompatible land development. It is incongruous to have viticulture, farming and tourism co-existing in close proximity to drilling for CSG.

## THE REGION AND WHAT IS AT RISK

The Hunter Valley is Australia's oldest wine-producing region. Its vines date back to 1825 – pre the phylloxera plague that decimated many of Europe's vineyards – making the Hunter Valley's vines amongst the oldest and rarest in the world. Today there are more than 230 wine-related businesses spread across 4,500 hectares, and winery tourism continues to grow year on year.

The Hunter Valley is Australia's number one wine tourism area, being the destination of choice for international visitors travelling to Australia (*Tourism Research Australia*). Recently voted the sixth most popular wine region in the world (*HotelsCombined.com*), the Hunter Valley attracts close to 3 million visitors each year and delivers the highest returns of any wine growing region in the country.

The wine produced in the Hunter Valley is valued at more than \$210 million per annum, with cellar door sales estimated to be worth \$75 million per annum. The total value of investment expenditure directly associated with the region's grape and wine production exceeds \$450 million.

The area's wine industry employs (directly and indirectly) 17,000 people, while the region's tourism businesses provide around 30,000 jobs. Together, Hunter Valley tourism and vineyards inject \$1.8 billion annually into the Australian economy.

The area's unique characteristics have been internationally recognised by virtue of a "Geographical Indication" or GI – an accolade only applied to truly outstanding wine zones to acknowledge their wine as originating in a locality where the quality, reputation or other characteristics of the wine are essentially attributable to that geographical origin.



## HOW WILL CSG DAMAGE THE HUNTER VALLEY?



■ Coal seam gas extraction releases fugitive methane emissions, which have many times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide, and deteriorate ground and surface water quality and quantity;



■ Coal seam gas extraction may contaminate or diminish upper fresh water aquifers;



■ A Monash University report has found groundwater in the area is under assessed and insufficiently regulated, with the future impact on the environment from CSG mining uncertain;



■ Each mega litre of coal seam gas produces several tonnes of saline waste. There is no capacity under the existing Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme for additional saline waste water from the CSG sector, and there is no policy in place to deal with this excess waste in terms of land storage and/or disposal;



■ Public health and safety concerns over CSG mining and the aesthetic destruction of the natural landscape will put tourism and wine-related visitation to the area at risk.



■ The local Wanaruah tribe believes CSGM should be excluded from the region due to the cultural heritage values of the Aboriginal people and the traditional landscape of the area.