

GAS WATCH 188.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CSG INTERVENTION APPLAUDED.

NSW GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED IN DRAFTING COAL SEAM METHANE LAWS.

The NSW Government has drafted laws which give no effective protection to even one square metre of this State, and which fly in the face of the recommendations of its own Stakeholder Reference Group.

As a result [AGL Energy](#) has already announced that this year it will be fracking coal seams in the Hunter Valley vineyards, even though it is concerned with the fracking technique it appears to now have abandoned in its Camden Gas fields.

This month [AGL](#) is drilling core holes through fresh water aquifers and hundreds of metres down into the salty, contaminated coal seams below, risking the fresh water of the Hunter Valley.

“The O’Farrell Government seems either incompetent, or unwilling, to properly address the effective control of the CSG industry and refuses to accept that CSG extraction and sustainable agriculture cannot co-exist.” said Stewart Ewen, the Chair of the Hunter Valley Protection Alliance.

“The NSW Government has breached its promises to ban CSG mining from the vineyards of the Hunter Valley, and refuses to follow the lead of the South Australian and Western Australian Governments which have legislated to protect their vineyard areas of Barossa Valley, MacLaren Vale, Margaret River and Swan River.”

“It is refreshing to see that the Federal Government is highlighting the ineffectiveness of the NSW Strategic Land Use Plans, the Gateway proposal and the Aquifer and Agricultural Impact Study requirements.”

“We encourage the Federal Government to intervene, using whatever existing or new legislation it can, to protect the vineyards and the burgeoning wine tourism industry, the thoroughbred breeding industry, all prime agricultural land and all fresh water.”

“The Hunter Valley must be saved, before it is too late.”



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