

# **GAS WATCH 206.**

## **Government sides against community to rush through legislation by stealth.**

**Important amendments to CSG law were stealthily rushed through and passed without amendment in less than a week in a move that signals the Government is now unashamedly in bed with the CSG mining lobby – and actively against its electors and the community.**

**On 22nd May, 2013, Minister Hartcher introduced CSG law amendments. It was pushed through and passed without amendment on 28th May. Some sort of a record??**

**Minister Hartcher's second reading speech could well have been written by the coal seam methane miners\*.**

**Why has the Government been covert in passing this legislation?  
Why was the CSG mining industry consulted, but not the community?**

The Government has clearly been brainwashed by the CSG industry. The CSG industry has been able to readily access Premier O'Farrell, but despite representations through local member George Souris, the community has been denied equal time.

The Government wants no debate on what is arguably the most contentious industry in the country – coal seam methane gas mining.

**The opportunity for the Government to enshrine into law its pre-election promises to permanently protect critical industries and environmentally sensitive areas has been lost.**

The proposed new Petroleum (Onshore) Act concentrates on convincing us that the CSG industry will be punished for breaches, but omits to address important issues.

It ignores previous advice of the department that:

- “fracking is noisy and a big disturbance and 200 metres from residences might be too close”;
- “There is a need to clarify powers to impose conditions, eg how to measure and contain water on site from the start to close, and indeed how the operation is to be closed”;
- “The PO Act is very light on in relation to production and closure”;
- “A review needs to look at structure of titles, compensation, land access, safety, the environment, interaction with coal and other mineral mines”;
- “Compensation may well change in the future and become more realistic – it may well be more with compulsory acquisition on the table for discussion”;
- “It needs to look at security deposits which more closely reflect the rehabilitation requirements, and addressed at REF lodgment stage”;

**This amendment does nothing to protect the environment or the rights of landholders. It has merely greased the path for CSG miners, threatening them with possible increased punishment if they breach their licence conditions.**

Email Chris Hartcher [office@hartcher.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@hartcher.minister.nsw.gov.au) and George Souris [office@souris.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@souris.minister.nsw.gov.au) and DEMAND that the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment Bill 2013 be made available for public comment before it becomes law.

\*[http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlament/nswbills.nsf/131a07fa4b8a041cca256e610012de17/76fbeb24d2113a43ca257b72001ff96b/\\$FILE/2R%20Petroleum.pdf](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlament/nswbills.nsf/131a07fa4b8a041cca256e610012de17/76fbeb24d2113a43ca257b72001ff96b/$FILE/2R%20Petroleum.pdf)



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