



**TAYLOR AT THIRLMERE: PUSHING FOR COAL SEAM GAS RESOLUTION**

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Angus Taylor, the Liberal Candidate for Hume, spent last Sunday at the Thirlmere Festival of Steam. He and Jai Rowell MP, the member for Wollondilly shared a stall at the festival, where Mr Taylor said he spoke with hundreds of passers-by.

Mr Taylor praised the day and the organising committee calling it an “extraordinary day with huge crowds and a wonderful sense of community.”

Mr Taylor said that an overwhelming number of people raised with him the issues of local jobs and strength of the local community. However, he said a very significant number of people were particularly interested in the recent developments in the State Government’s plans for the regulation of coal seam gas.

Mr Taylor said:

“The issue that came up again and again last Sunday was coal seam gas.

“Many people told me that they had been pleased to hear that that the State Government had recently announced that coal seam gas would be excluded from residential areas. It is now critical that the State government moves quickly to the next level and quickly complete the scientific report they have commissioned on aquifer interference.

“Many people also expressed how pleased they were that AGL has suspended its Northern Expansion CSG application. I know that Jai Rowell has been working hard with the community and in Parliament on stopping this development, and everyone should be commended for the work that resulted in the application being abandoned.”

Mr Taylor said that it was vital that the amenity of Wollondilly was not at risk.

“Whether it is people who have lived in these communities for generations, or people who have migrated out of the city more recently for a better life, people live in places like Wollondilly for a good reason – to get out of the confines of the city and the city way of life. Having reassurance that coal seam gas will not be extracted next door or somewhere over the back fence is a good thing, and I welcome the government’s intervention.

“Alongside my work in farming and agriculture, I have done a lot of work in the energy sector. Gas may well be a medium term solution to helping containing energy costs, reduce carbon emissions and obtain lower cost energy. However, there is a lot of gas that can be extracted from all over Australia, including in places that are remote and not prime agricultural land. It makes no sense whatsoever to extract gas from sensitive areas - when it can be extracted safely and inexpensively in places where there is much less impact on people.

“I will continue to watch and monitor state developments in coal seam gas very carefully, and will put whatever work is needed into making sure gas projects do not interfere with residential areas and aquifers.

“I will have more to say on that when the NSW government’s report is handed down.”

**Contact Angus Taylor on 0413 963 113 if there are any queries.**