



## **MEDIA RELEASE – James Harker-Mortlock – Independent for Hume - 13th March 2013**

### **CSG – PROPOSED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENT LEGISLATION WELCOMED**

James Harker-Mortlock, independent candidate for the seat of Hume, made the following statement this morning :

“I refer to the announcement made yesterday by Tony Burke, the Federal Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities that he intends to introduce legislation into the Federal Parliament which will ensure that any coal seam gas or large coal mine development which has "a significant impact on a water resource" must be assessed by the Federal Government. The Federal Government will be assisted in its deliberations by the Independent Expert Scientific Committee. In principle I support this move of the Federal Government. However, I look forward to seeing the detail of the legislation when it becomes available.

I am pleased to see that the Federal Coalition’s spokesperson Greg Hunt is prepared to consider the proposed legislation and has re-affirmed the Coalition’s support for the implementation of the expert scientific panel to further research the impact of coal seam gas development on water. Mr. Hunt acknowledges widespread community concern over coal seam gas mining.

I call upon the Liberal candidate for Hume to make clear his position on this proposed Federal Government legislation. In recent weeks the Liberal Candidate’s views have not necessarily coincided with the Coalition in this area of policy, most notably in regard to the Renewable Energy Target (RET). The people of Hume need to know where the Liberal Candidate stands on this issue as significant portions of the electorate are proposed to be investigated for the potential exploitation of coal seam gas and other mining resources.

I remain opposed to coal seam gas extraction. My comprehensive policy in regard to coal seam gas mining may be found on my website.”

ENDS

Contact : James Harker-Mortlock - Email : [james@puttinghumefirst.com](mailto:james@puttinghumefirst.com); Mobile : 04 111 82649

Website : <http://www.puttinghumefirst.com>