



## **TAYLOR HIGHLIGHTS HIS STRONG POSITION ON CSG IN WOLLONDILLY AND THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS**

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Angus Taylor, the Liberal Candidate for Hume, recently highlighted his strong position on the importance of protecting aquifers, prime agricultural land and residential areas from coal seam gas activity. This position is in line with Liberal party policy, as outlined by the shadow minister for energy, Ian Macfarlane.

Mr Taylor said:

“I share the concerns of residents in Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands about their amenity and interference in water aquifers. It is a personal belief of mine that mining companies should not have free rein and should only operate where these risks can be avoided.

“Water, in particular, is one of our most precious resources. As a farmer and having grown up in farming family there could be no one who holds this view more strongly than me.

“So I am pleased that governments at all levels are starting to listen to communities about this very legitimate concern. I will be looking to make sure that there is no threat to Sydney’s water supply, or critical aquifers, as a result of coal seam gas activity.

“I also welcome the recent State government announcement implementing a 2km exclusion zone around residential areas for coal seam gas. People live in Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands for a superior lifestyle and to get out of the confines of the city and the city way of life. People should not need to be worried about coal seam gas extraction occurring just over their back fence.”

Mr Taylor said that he would use his experience in the energy sector to make sure that governments get the policy settings for gas extraction in Australia right:

“Alongside my work in farming and agriculture, I have done a lot of work in the energy sector.

“We are facing an energy crisis in New South Wales, and we will see rapidly increasing costs over the next few years if we do not manage our energy policy in a sensible way.

“Gas is likely to be one of a number of short to medium term solutions to helping contain energy costs, reduce carbon emissions and obtain lower cost energy.

“However, there is no shortage of gas (conventional and non-conventional) away from sensitive areas, especially in far western Queensland, Northern South Australia, Bass Strait and offshore of Gippsland. These places are all remote and not prime agricultural land. The expectation is that there will be hundreds of years of supply. Coal seam gas as an industry in New South Wales is tiny – less than 1% of Australia’s reserves. So it is madness to have a coal seam gas production in residential neighbourhoods or which puts aquifers around the Sydney Basin at risk. It makes no sense to extract gas that will put these areas at risk, when it can be extracted safely, inexpensively and in much greater quantities in places where there will be much less impact.”

Mr Taylor said he would continue to carefully watch and monitor developments in coal seam gas:

“I will put whatever work is needed into making sure coal seam gas projects do not interfere with residential areas, prime agricultural land and aquifers in Wollondilly or the Southern Highlands.”

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