

CSG Water Catchment Ban

The New South Wales Irrigators Council has welcomed an announcement by the NSW Government that it will introduce a moratorium on CSG activity in drinking water catchments, but says it must be extended state-wide immediately.

Council Chief Executive Officer Andrew Gregson says it would be unthinkable for the Government to argue some drinking water catchments were more important than others.

"We're very pleased to see the Government recognise the potential impacts of coal seam gas activity on water. This announcement finally shifts momentum to the sensible position of ensuring water resources - both drinking and agricultural - are of paramount importance.

"There's a long way to go, however.

"Surely the Government won't be arguing that water in Sydney is more important than water in regional New South Wales? Surely they won't argue that representations from their MPs in Sydney were better than those of regional and rural MPs?

Mr Gregson says he understand that the NSW Nationals will be approaching Minister Hartcher on the matter immediately.

"Minister Hartcher needs to listen closely to his Coalition colleagues. They'll tell him that the location of a water resource is irrelevant. They'll tell him that the water supply in rural and regional NSW is equally as important as it is in Sydney. They'll remind him that it is the job of the Government to represent the entire state.

"We'll look forward to the Government announcing immediately that their very sensible moratorium will be extended statewide."

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