

The object of this Bill is to regulate the exploration for, and mining of, coal seam gas (which is also known as coal seam methane or coal bed methane) by:

- (a) prohibiting prospecting for petroleum, and petroleum mining operations, relating to coal seam gas in the Sydney Catchment Authority's special area and the Sydney metropolitan region, and
- (b) cancelling or suspending certain petroleum titles relating to coal seam gas, and prohibiting the grant or renewal of such titles in relation to the Sydney Catchment Authority's special area and the Sydney metropolitan region, and
- (c) prohibiting petroleum prospecting, and petroleum mining operations, relating to coal seam gas in other parts of the State during a 12-month moratorium period, and
- (d) during that moratorium period, suspending certain petroleum titles relating to coal seam gas (other than production leases) relating to land in those other parts of the State and prohibiting the grant or renewal of certain petroleum titles relating to that land.