

**Submission  
No 910**

## **INQUIRY INTO COAL SEAM GAS**

**Organisation:** Southern Councils Group

**Date received:** 20/01/2012

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13 January 2012

The Director  
NSW Legislative Council  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Director

### **Coal Seam Gas Inquiry**

The Southern Councils Group (SCG) is the peak organisation representing Local Government in the Illawarra and South Coast regions. Member Councils include Bega Valley Shire, Eurobodalla Shire, Kiama Municipal, Shellharbour City, Shoalhaven City, Wingecarribee Shire and Wollongong City Councils.

At its meeting held 30 November 2011 SCG resolved to prepare and forward to the Inquiry a joint statement by SCG of support for Wollongong City Council's position on exploration in water catchment areas. The following is therefore submitted.

#### Statement

- ▶ SCG expresses its concerns that the short-term and long-term environmental impacts of Coal Seam Gas (CSG) activities are not well understood, at either a State-wide or regional level.
- ▶ SCG acknowledges there is widespread local community concern about and opposition to CSG in the Illawarra and South Coast.
- ▶ SCG urges the State Government to rule out CSG activities in water catchment areas.

SCG will monitor outcomes of the NSW Legislative Council Standing Committee Inquiry into Coal Seam Gas and particularly those that relate to its Terms of Reference point 2e. *{Terms of Reference excerpt.....The economic and social implication of CSG activities, including those which effect.....e) Local Government including provisions of local/regional infrastructure and local planning control mechanisms}*

Your consideration of the SCG's position in regard to this matter would be most appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Scarlett  
Executive Officer

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