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Office of Coal Seam Gas

# Narrabri Community Consultative Committee

Narrabri, 9 December 2014

# Ministerially appointed CCC

- *Strategic Regional Land Use Policy Delivery – Guideline for Community Consultation Requirements for Exploration* (March, 2012).
- This Policy encourages the use of community consultative committees (CCCs) to provide for ongoing and open discussion with the community.

# CCCs

- To formalise any CCC arrangements, the Minister for Resources and Energy can appoint an independent chairperson.
- The NSW Land and Water Commissioner, Jock Laurie, has been appointed as the independent chairperson.

# Aim and previous work

- Adequate and effective community consultation is best practice as a part of any regulatory approvals process.
- Community consultation means informing and being informed by the community, but decision making remains with the responsible authorities.
- What is happening elsewhere:
  - Gloucester Dialogue
  - Approach

# Objective today

- *Discuss approach for Narrabri CCC operation*
- *Raise issues*
- *Discuss draft at next meeting*

# PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

- Purpose of the CCC is to provide a forum for communication, discussion and analysis of issues relevant to the proposed Narrabri Gas Project between Santos, role of Government regulators, the local councils and the community.
- The CCC provides an opportunity for the company and stakeholder representatives to identify key issues for discussion within the bounds of the project.

# COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Minister for Resources and Energy has appointed the NSW Land and Water Commissioner, Jock Laurie, as the Independent Chairperson of the CCC.

## *Current membership*

- Santos (with input from technical experts or consultants on an as needs basis.)
- Narrabri Shire Council;

# THE COMMITTEE

- Representatives from the following organisations:
  - NSW Farmers
  - North West Local Land Services
  - Cotton Australia
  - Namoi Water
  - Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council
  - Narrabri Chamber of Commerce
  - NSW Country Women’s Association
  - People for the Plains



# THE COMMITTEE - AGENCIES

- Office of Coal Seam Gas
- Department Planning and Environment
- NSW Office of Water
- Environment Protection Authority

# Chairperson

- The role of the Chairperson is to -
  - convene and chair meetings
  - determine agenda items for each meeting in consultation with the members of the CCC
  - report at regular intervals to the Minister on the operation of the CCC
  - approve the release of communiqués.
- A Division of Resources and Energy, Community Liaison Officer

# MEETING ACTIONS AND COMMUNIQUE

- Meeting actions and communiqués to be recorded and released subject to the agreement of members.



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# *Discussion*



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# Regulate Petroleum Industry

- Administer Petroleum (Onshore) Act
  - Titles
  - Exploration activities
  - Regulate well integrity and fracture stimulation activities
- Regulate work health and safety at petroleum workplaces under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*



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# NSW Gas Plan

The NSW Gas Plan resets the approach to gas development in NSW through 17 key actions under five priority pathways.

*Announced: 13 November 2014*

# Better science and information to deliver world's best practice regulation

1. The Government accepts all the recommendations of the Chief Scientist and Engineer's independent review and is committed to building a world class regime for the extraction of gas



# CS&E: Recommendations 1 - 3

- **That Government make clear its intent to establish a world class regime for extraction of Coal Seam Gas (CSG).**
- **That Government ensure clear and open communication on CSG matters is maintained at all times.**
- **That Government investigate as a priority a range of practical measures for implementation (or extension of current measures) to allow affected communities to have strengthened protections and benefits including fair and appropriate**

# Pause, reset and recommence – Gas exploration on our terms

2. A Strategic Release Framework will be introduced to ensure that any future gas exploration is done on our terms and terms that meet community expectations
3. Legislation will be introduced in 2014 to extinguish all current petroleum exploration licence applications
4. The Government will establish a one off buy-back of petroleum exploration licences

# Pause, reset and recommence – Gas exploration on our terms

5. Petroleum exploration titles will be removed from National Parks
5. The Government will implement and enforce a ‘use it or lose it’ policy requiring titleholders to commit to developing the state’s resources or risk losing their title

# Pause, reset and recommence – Strong and certain regulation

7. The independent Environment Protection Authority will be appointed as the lead regulator for gas exploration and production
8. World best practice environmental and regulatory standards will be applied to gas exploration and production → Minimum Standards for Renewal

# Pause, reset and recommence – Strong and certain regulation

9. Strategic Energy Projects which benefit NSW gas consumers will receive whole of Government coordination
9. Policy and regulatory reform will provide greater regulatory clarity for industry and communities

# Pause, reset and recommence – Sharing the benefits

11. Legislation will be introduced to ensure that landholders share in the financial benefits of gas exploration and production
12. Landholders will receive independent expert advice on benchmark compensation rates for gas exploration and production from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
13. A Community Benefits Fund with contributions from both gas companies and the NSW Government will be established to fund local projects in communities where gas exploration and production occurs

# Securing NSW gas supply needs

- 14. The Government will work with other State and Territory Governments and the private sector to explore the possibilities for gas pipelines to NSW
- 14. Gas companies will be asked to demonstrate how projects that develop NSW gas reserves will benefit NSW gas consumers

# Securing NSW gas supply needs

- 16. The Government will commission an independent review of royalties to ensure we have the settings required to develop a competitive gas industry in NSW and secure our supply needs
- 16. We will support households and businesses to use gas more efficiently to help reduce their bills and release pressure on overall gas supplies





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# *Questions*