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"Letters *your views behind the news"*

Disappointing response

I signed a petition by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society and Stop CSG Blue Mountains to Ms Roza Sage. It asked her to publicly declare her opposition to CSG exploration and production in the Greater Blue Mountains area, and advocate in State Parliament and directly with AGL for excision of all parts of the Greater Blue Mountains area from AGL's PEL2.

The Greater Blue Mountains area runs northward from Mittagong to Denman in the Upper Hunter. It includes the World Heritage Area (six National Parks), and several State Conservation Areas and State Forests.

Ms Sage's response in an undated letter is disappointing. She states: "...my view has always been to protect the World Heritage National Park that is part of the Blue Mountains electorate." She therefore restricts her concern to parts of the Blue Mountains National Park (her "World Heritage National Park") within her electorate. Villages from Blaxland to Mt Victoria are not within the Blue Mountains National Park and are apparently excluded, despite containing the voting part of her electorate, and despite villages from Valley Heights westward being under a Petroleum Special Prospecting Authority Application. Perhaps an unfortunate oversight!

Ms Sage fails to address the petition in terms of approaching AGL about its PEL2, which affects a substantial portion of her electorate from Valley Heights eastward. Nor is she apparently prepared to consider CSG risk to the Greater Blue Mountains area and sound out Members for electorates bordering hers.

When will Ms Sage provide a less parochial answer to the nearly 3500 people who signed the petition and do not think the Blue Mountains area stops at her electoral boundary?

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