

Matter of Urgency

That the Council now consider a matter arising in relation to coal seam gas, that has been ruled by the Mayor to be a matter of great urgency.

MINUTE NO. 548

Procedural - Matter of Urgency

A MOTION was MOVED by Councillors Williamson and Luchetti:

- 1. That the Council opposes all current or proposed coal seam gas exploration and mining practices anywhere in the Greater Blue Mountain area, including the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and the Blue Mountains Local Government Area, because of the unacceptable risks to our water catchments, groundwater, agricultural industries, natural environment and human health;**
- 2. That the Council write to the Premier of NSW informing him of Council's position and seeking a ban on Coal Seam Gas mining and exploration in the Greater Blue Mountains Area, including the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and the Blue Mountains Local Government Area;**
- 3. That the Council write to the Minister for Resources and Energy, urging him to give notice Blue Mountains City Council prior to the determination of any application for coal seam gas exploration or production within the Greater Blue Mountains Area, including the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and the Blue Mountains Local Government Area;**
- 4. That the Council write to the relevant State ministers urging them to put in place effective measures – if Coal Seam Gas drilling goes ahead against the Council's and community's wishes – to constantly and independently monitor aquifers and surface water which might be affected by any well, and immediately notify Council and halt all activity if there is any sign of contamination, water course bed collapse, or other adverse impacts on the water system;**

5. That the Council writes to the Penrith and Blue Mountains Local Members of Parliament, State and Federal, seeking support for Council's position;
6. That the Council supports other Councils in NSW in their opposition to Coal Seam Gas Exploration and Mining;
7. That the Council writes to the NSW State Government urging it to ban all coal seam gas exploration or extraction within all drinking water catchment areas;
8. That the Council notes recent scientific research from Southern Cross University at the Tara Gas Field in Southern Queensland has found levels of methane and carbon dioxide three times higher than in neighbouring non-CSG mining areas; and
9. That the Council notes a report on the Australian Industry Group website entitled Large scale export of East Coast Australia natural gas: Unintended consequences has indicated that Australia's gas exports are forecast to grow from about 2 million tonnes in 2015 to 20 million tonnes in 2018.

Upon being PUT to the Meeting, the MOTION was CARRIED, the vote being UNANIMOUS:

For	Against
Councillors Myles	Councillors
Christie	
Greenhill	
Von Schulenburg	
Fell	
Luchetti	
Hollywood	
Van der Kley	
Williamson	
Begg	
McGregor	
Stock	