



Note that minutes are paraphrased to an extent and may not exactly match actual statements.

Project	Gloucester Coal Seam Gas Project	From	Michael Ulph
Subject	Community Consultative Committee	Tel	4941 2841
Venue/Date/Time	Thursday 25th October Gloucester Country Club, 10.00am – 1.00pm	Job No	21/17714
Copies to	All attendees		
Attendees	Toni Laurie – AGL Land and Approvals Manager Ian Shaw – AGL Lands Officer Therese Ryan – AGL Community Relations Manager David Kelly – AGL Head of Land and Approvals Graham Gardner – Gloucester Shire Council Clr Aled Hogget – Gloucester Shire Council Ed Robinson – Lower Waukivory Residents Group Rod Williams – Community Representative David Mitchell – Avon Valley Landcare Clr David West – Mid Coast Water Anna Kaliska – Mid Coast Water Michael Ulph – GHD (Facilitator) Lilen Pautasso – GHD (Assistant Facilitator) Rod Besier – The Gloucester Project (stand-in) Ray Dawes – Barrington Gloucester Stroud Preservation Alliance (stand-in)	Apologies	Gerald McCalden – The Gloucester Project Clr Karen Hutchinson – Great Lakes Council Tim Hickman – Community Rep Garry Smith – Barrington Gloucester Stroud Preservation Alliance Clr Tony McKenzie – Dungog Shire Council Lee McElroy – Port Stephens Council Lisa Schiff – Great Lakes Council
	Observers Alex-Kennedy Clarke – AGL Project Manager Julie Delvecchio - AGL Head of Community Relations		

1. Introductions

Action

Michael Ulph

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Meeting commenced at 10:10am

Michael announced that some members on the CCC have changed as a result of Council elections held in late-August. He asked each person present to introduce themselves to the group.



2. Meeting agenda

- Welcome, apologies, introductions
- Action items from previous meetings
- Project Update (Toni Laurie)
- Community Engagement update (Therese Ryan)
- Morning tea break
- AGL Strategic Regional Land Use Policy (David Kelly)
- General business
- Next meeting & close of formal proceedings
- Trip to the Waukivory Pilot Well site
- Lunch

3. Action items from the last meeting

Action items from the previous CCC were reviewed. The status of these action items were confirmed for the CCC.

Action 1: Michael to proceed with inviting Aboriginal representative to the next CCC meeting

Complete – Michael spoke with Dan Rose (CEO – Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council) and proceeded with inviting him onto the CCC. In preparation for the CCC meeting today, Michael attempted to follow up with him yesterday (24/10/12) and had no success in contacting him. He also attempted to contact him prior to this date (18/10/12) but has had no success. Michael will attempt to contact him again before the next CCC meeting in December.

Michael to re-contact Dan Rose from Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council prior to the next CCC meeting

Action 2: Therese to check that the correct terminology is used in the Terms of Reference

Complete – correct terminology has been used

Action 3: Michael to distribute the Aeromag presentation by Andrew Parker (AGL) to the CCC

Complete – the presentation was integrated into the minutes from the last meeting. This was so that the comments made by members of the CCC could be kept in context with the presentation.

Action 4: Therese to provide more details on the Camden community open day to the CCC

Complete – Cllr James Hooke attended the open day with Therese. The next open day is scheduled for November 10.



Action 5: AGL to look into the idea of 'diary notes' to ensure the CCC remains informed about activities or project news

Complete – Michael has done this and spoken with Therese regarding the use of 'diary notes'. AGL is currently looking at taking this recommendation on board.

Action 6: AGL to speak with AECOM to identify the criteria used to undertake the visual assessment.

Incomplete – Toni Laurie followed up with AECOM but couldn't speak directly to them. AGL has not engaged with AECOM on this project for many years. Toni has left a message with AECOM and is waiting for a call back in regards to the visual assessment query from the CCC member. This action will be followed up.

Toni Laurie to follow up with AECOM regarding the criteria used to undertake the visual assessment

CCC: When did you get in touch with them?

Toni – Not immediately following the last CCC meeting, but more recently.

Michael asked the CCC if there were any other questions in relation to the action items or previous meeting minutes.

CCC: The last meeting minutes mention nothing about the Waukivory pilot during the 'Project Update' section. Why was there no update on that?

Toni – The reason we couldn't provide an update on that during the last meeting was because it had not been planned at that time. We were still waiting for the Land and Environment Court to hand down their decision on the Court Case which was the commitment we had made during the blockade last year. We will be updating you further today as well as visiting the drilling rig.

CCC: I keep mentioning that AGL needs to be on the front foot and I'm not happy with this. Even as a member of the CCC, I got very little notification about the Waukivory pilot program. We were only notified about the works starting 24 hours before the community .

Toni – Unfortunately that was a consequence of having to wait for the court decision to be made. Once that decision was handed down we notified the community through phone calls, door-knocking and other communication like the community update. But it all happened really fast for us so it was a challenge being able to give notice.

CCC: Yes, but it surprises me that the drill rig and all the rest was organised so quickly, but the process of notifying the community was lacking.

Ian – What happened was that there were last-minute changes with the drilling schedule due to specific 'clashes'. This happened very fast for us and we had to act quickly which meant that the notification process was affected. We did make all attempts to ensure that an adequate



notification process was undertaken and we do continue to follow up with landowners on their requirements while the pilot is running.

Toni – we could not provide an update on the timing until this had been confirmed with the drilling rig schedule. As soon as the schedule was confirmed we provided the notifications.

Rod Williams moved that the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting and Ed Robinson seconded.

4. Project update:

Toni Laurie (AGL) provided an update of the Gloucester gas project to the CCC.

Water update from John Ross

CCC received a copy of the 2011/2012 status report. As part of the groundwater monitoring program we do have ongoing quarterly monitoring and reports that we issue. We completed the pump test on the Tiedman property on 9 October, including flow testing. The Waukivory pilot monitoring bores are installed and the water monitoring program commenced.

CCC: What's the deepest water monitoring bore on the Waukivory site?

Toni: I would have to get back to you with an exact figure. It's about 150 metres on the western property. But I will let you know. **ACTION**

CCC: What is the reason behind the site being called Waukivory and not Forbesdale.

Toni: this issue had been raised previously at the CCC. The name was given as the wells are located in the vicinity of Waukivory Creek, The name Waukivory was included in the project assessment and approval, however AGL are referring to it as WaukivoryPilot located at Forbesdale where possible to clarify that.

CCC: You mentioned that they are groundwater monitoring bores, but are they also gas bores?

Toni: There are dedicated groundwater monitoring bores. The pilot wells themselves will produce both water and gas through the flow-test part of the program.

Michael: Are the monitoring bores nested bores like on the Tiedman property?

Toni: Yes, that's right.

CCC: And they are all installed?

Toni – The water monitoring bores are installed. We are currently drilling the second pilot well, and there will be another two to drill.

Toni Laurie to clarify what the depths of the water monitoring bores are for the Waukivory pilot site



The water balance study has been completed and we are now in phase 3 of the numerical model. We expect this to be finished in the next few months.

Preparatory work is currently underway for the irrigation trial to commence on the Tiedman property.

Project Update

There are a few things to report on in regards to community relations. These will provide a more thorough report later on, but some of the major developments have included:

- A protest rally occurred outside the Gloucester AGL office. During this protest AGL received a letter from the Barrington Gloucester Stroud Preservation Alliance (BGSPA) outlining their concerns and opposition to the Gloucester Gas Project. Since receiving that letter, AGL provided a response addressing the questions put forward.

Note: Both the letter and the response were tabled at the meeting.

- Because the Waukivory pilot it is a 24/7 operation we have been keeping regular contact with landowners affected by the work. We have received two complaints, regarding lighting that were immediately reported to Department of Resources and Energy, investigated by AGL and where issues were found amended.
- As Mike Roy (AGL) reported to CCC previously the Waukivory 11 site will include the drilling of a micro-seismic borehole. This will have geophones placed in it to assess the baseline and the fracturing of the Waukivory 11 well and then be converted to a permanent groundwater monitoring well. This borehole will be drilled on the same pad site as the pilot well.

Rombo demolition

Demolition work at the old piggery 'Rombo' is planned to commence in early November, around the 7th ..

Aeromag survey

Unfortunately the survey has had to be pushed back to January/February due to contractor availability. We have decided to use an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for the work.

CCC: And will this be for the whole basin area?

Toni – Yes, that's right.

CCC: The helicopters that have been flying around recently, are they part of the project?

Toni – No. Those helicopters I believe are water bombing a fire that has broken out nearby. They have absolutely no connection to the gas project.



Core-hole

To be drilled adjacent to the Tiedeman property which is owned by AGL. The timing of the drilling will be based on rig availability, but it is likely to happen early next year.

CCC: Have you picked a spot for that core-hole yet?

Toni: Yes, PL03 (as noted in the REF). The site located on AGL's Pontilands property north of Tiedemans.

Pipeline license

We have been working on the application for the pipeline license (PL). We will be submitting our application in early November. We are also currently in the process of preparing the Petroleum Production Lease (PPL) which we hope will be ready for lodgement in the coming months.

CCC: Have you worked out where you are going to put the wells for the Stage 1 field?

Toni: No, not yet. In order to obtain the PPL you don't have to nominate the sites of the wells, an envelope approach can be taken as is consistent with the approved EA.. The PPL is granted so long as it is consistent with the Part 3A Approval.

CCC: So when do you decide?

Toni: Once the PPL is granted, the well locations will be included in the Field development plan which is one of the project approval conditions to be met.

CCC: So you're going to get a production licence but not disclose where the sites are?

Toni: This is not a requirement for the PPL as long as the PPL is consistent with the approval.

CCC: Where are you up to with the pipeline agreements?

Toni: We have about 82% of landholders signed up.

CCC: Will there be a public forum to discuss the aeromag surveys that will be undertaken?

Therese: Yes there will be four information sessions. They will be held at Stratford, Stroud Road, Wards River and Gloucester. We are unable to have the blimp at these sessions but will have it in Gloucester prior to the start of the survey and will hold a show and tell session before the work starts.

CCC: How big is the blimp?

Ian: About 6 metres long. Since the last meeting they have investigated



the options and they are finalising contracts at this time which is why it's taking longer.

[NB: AGL advises that the blimp is between 6 and 10 metres long] - Chair

Toni offered the CCC a hard copy of the flood management plan or for those new members who did not receive a copy in the first place.

6. Community Engagement Update – Therese Ryan

Therese provided an update to the CCC on all the recent community engagement events. This included:

Aeromag survey

Andrew Parker (AGL) attended the previous CCC meeting and presented on the aeromag surveys and how they would be undertaken in the Gloucester Basin.

The aeromag information sessions are coming up in December. AGL is currently working on when the presenter from Shift (the contracted company) can attend. There will be four sessions to occur, but the blimp (UAV) won't be available until January.

Letterbox drops

Numerous letterbox drops have been conducted around the area. This has included:

- September 18 – Notification for neighbours re the commencement of site works for the Waukivory pilot site
- October 18 – Residents closest to the Waukivory Pilot were letterbox dropped and doorknocked to check the impact of the rig lighting on these properties. AGL received some requests for changes to be made and made subsequent changes to suit.

Media releases

Numerous media releases were published in the Gloucester Advocate. The dates of publication and content included:

- August 28 – the Land and Environment court decision
- September 18 – Commencement of site works for Waukivory Pilot
- October 16 – AGL's response to the protest outside the Gloucester office (water studies update)

Community Updates

Numerous community updates were issued to the Gloucester and Stroud/Stroud Road community. These were:



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- September 5 – the Land and Environment court decision
 - September 19 – Waukivory pilot
 - September 25 – Waukivory pilot
 - October 3 – Why is AGL pursuing CSG in Gloucester.
 - October 23 – update regarding water studies

Camden Open Day

Therese was accompanied by Clr James Hooke at the Camden Open Day. Another open day is coming up in Camden on Saturday 10 November..

Fact sheet

An aeromag survey fact sheet is being completed and will be sent to the entire 2422 area and information published in the Gloucester Advocate. Dates for the aeromag information sessions will also be published on the fact sheet and in the paper.

Doorknocking

Ian and Therese did some doorknocking at the houses closer to the rig sites regarding the lights that would be on at the rig each night.

Site Visits

Neighbours to the Waukivory pilot site went to the rig for a site visit. This offer was also extended to all doorknocked residents.

Another site visit to the Waukivory pilot site is planned for the CCC today.

CCC: The complaints that you received about the rigs, did they have anything to do with noise?

Therese: No, not noise. The complaints have only been in relation to lighting and some traffic movements. We do have security down there 24/7 and we have asked for them to use low-beam when it's safe.

CCC: The roads aren't used by farm managers, are they?

Therese: Yes, they are. They are the ones that wanted the roads located where they are.

CCC: They wanted the road right in the middle of the floodplain?

Toni: Yes, they wanted it and their desire to have the road in that specific location is listed on their Property Access Agreement.

CCC: Why are the water trucks still going up and down Maslen's Lane 12 hours a day?

Toni: That particular lane is our heavy vehicle access road. Because there is so much movement and regular deliveries to the site we need



to maintain dust control and the way we do that is by watering the road and associated tracks with the water trucks.

CCC: Did Gloucester Resources ask for that?

Toni: No. This is being done in consultation with the dairy farmer on that property.

Ian: Because the road goes right through the dairy farm, we're trying to maintain a good relationship with the landowner. If we didn't water the road we would have complaints about dust.

CCC: Of the people in the community that I speak to, you have to water the roads all that time because it can get out of control and you'll be full of dust. Especially at this time of year.

CCC: So when the rig moves to the other sites you won't water it?

Toni: No, once there's no activity on that lane then there won't be a need to water it.

CCC: As a resident on Jack's Road, I have had to put up with the water trucks, but no-one consulted me as a landowner.

Residents in that area were letter box dropped and that included information on heavy vehicle movements associated with servicing the rig on the daily basis.

CCC: I had someone approach me as a Councillor regarding the truck movements. Did they get in touch with you too?

Therese: Yes, that person also contacted us and we spoke to the truck drivers regarding that landowners concern.

CCC: Yes and she was very happy with AGL's response, but not the truck drivers.

Therese: Yes, we reinforced with truck drivers that it was a residential area and we also gave an undertaking not to operate trucks past their residence at certain times to avoid an impact on their business.

CCC: You mention in your reports that the CCC voted for an independent peer reviewer. Can it be changed to say that only a majority voted for that to happen?

Ian: I don't think that request is valid because AGL gave the CCC the same opportunities to implement a process to provide clarity around the validity of the groundwater report. What happened is that some people chose to walk out of the meeting and didn't vote.

CCC: That's because we didn't agree with what you were doing.

Ian: Well, so be it. My concern is that this request is a bit picky because those that walked out of the meeting had the same opportunity, but didn't place a vote. It works under the same principle



of the 'apologies' at these meetings – they are still part of the CCC.

CCC: Yes, I agree with Ian and, to be honest, I find it personally offensive because we all had an opportunity to vote and some people chose to not be part of that process. Regardless of whether you agreed or not, you didn't place a vote so, I find it offensive that you want that terminology changed. It's very picky and offensive to the rest of the committee.

CCC: I'm sorry that I personally offended you, but I feel that that phrase implies a majority decision.

Michael – I think that, to be objective, some members 'abstained' from that process, however the recommendation still came from the committee.

David Mitchell arrived at 10:45am.

Meeting took a break for morning tea at 10:50am

**5. AGL Strategic Regional Land Use Policy presentation.
(please see briefing paper appended to these minutes for more information).**

David Kelly (AGL Head of Land and Approvals) issued a brief document to the GCCC regarding the policy. He discussed aspects of this new policy and asked the CCC members to ask questions at any time. Some key aspects are included below:

- On 11 September the Federal Government released a package with 27 new measures to provide greater protection for farmers and to better balance competing land uses. Over 2,000 submissions were made.
- There has been a lot of commentary regarding the Gateway Process. Policy states that if you are undertaking a mining or coal seam gas project in these areas, you have to apply for a certificate before the project can be assessed by the Department of Planning.

CCC: From an industry point of view, why are there only two options? Not an option to deny an application?

[NB: conditional or unconditional certificates rather than a stop/go process.] – chair.

David: I don't know But as the whole process developed, the gateway became conditional, so you couldn't be denied one.

CCCL: This is a policy, so it's therefore not enforceable by law is it?

David: I will get to that.

- The industry (gateway) panel will contain 3 members from agriculture, mining and the CSG industry. My personal opinion is that it's going to be quite a hard panel to get through. Recruitment



for this panel will occur soon.

- The aquifer interference policy applies to the whole state and is now being applied, mostly to production activities.

CCC: In terms of the well integrity there's monitoring, is there something covered in the previous codes of practice for well integrity?

David The new codes of practice have been peer reviewed by the Chief Scientist and Engineer of NSW.

- The moratorium on hydraulic fracturing has been lifted following the development of these codes, which had been in place previously for 16-18 months.
- Land and Water Commissioner will be implemented, but we are not sure yet how many will be employed. Currently the documents are being prepared and drafted. We will know once they are released.

CCC: The NSW Land and Water Commissioner has the ability to advise the government if the company has acted within the acts and conditions. Does this have any relation to what's happened with the Land and Environment Court?

David – The commissioner will report to the Director General of DTIRIS. The position sits outside the regulatory framework and will be independent and advise the government.

- There is a new requirement for us to address and outline the agricultural impacts of these projects.

CCC: And in terms of this project, it will be in Stages 2 and 3?

David: Yes, that's correct, for any future stages. And also during any new exploration work, elements will apply.

- We have commenced the process of title renewals, but we haven't received a renewed license for PEL285 as yet. There is some backlog in the department, but it is happening and we're moving forward with this.
- Announcement yesterday from the Minister regarding royalties to be paid. From 1st January, it will be 10% royalty.

CCC: Is that for all new projects? Or all projects?

David: All projects.

CCC: What was the reason for the deferral of royalties in the first place?

David: The act came in 1990 and they were trying to provide incentives to develop the gas industry in NSW.

Ray Dawes arrived at 11:20am. He is the stand-in for the BGSPA



for this meeting.

- Approvals are all on the website which allows for more transparency. Previously this only applied to exploration licenses.
- There will be additional levees on our titles which will be used to help fund 40 new positions within the department to oversee regulation of the industry
- Industry has been called in by the Director General to provide comment on this new policy. Other representative groups have also been invited to provide comment (i.e. mining and agriculture)
- It is hoped that the policy will be on exhibition in November.
- Additional plans are being prepared as well as strategic land use mapping (including Gloucester and the Hunter).

CCC: What is the best website to look for these guidelines?

David: Definitely the Department of Planning website.

Michael: David can you please send me the links so I can distribute to the CCC?

David: Yes, of course.

AGL to provide a link to the new Policy to Michael for distribution to CCC

7. General business:

CCC: I thought I would just mention some changes at Gloucester Council. Currently we are ensuring that we have a member of Council at all of the committees happening in the community. We are also in the process of establishing a planning group. This group will involve people of the community so that when issues, queries, events etc. arise, we can discuss them. I think that this is very relevant to this CCC. Soon we will be seeking people to join the planning group and will be advertising public interest to stand on any of those committees.

Ian: Will industry be invited to participate in this planning group?

CCC: I guess it depends on who shows interest and how they fit into the committee. Of course they need to provide some sort of value to the process so Council will assess the applications and then they can make a decision on who to include. It is for public interest so it depends who is interested.

CCC: A member of the public told me she was photographed by a security guard when she stopped to look at the AGL site at Fairbairn Rd.

Therese: We'll find out more about that and report back.

Ian: (To an attendee) I saw you talking to the Mayor near the Waukivory project a while back, what was that about?

AGL to clarify this issue.



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Response: That was a personal conversation and I reject any insinuation.

Ian: I wondered if there was anything you wished to know that I can assist with?

Response: I would like the minutes to show that I take offence at that question.

Michael: I'll ensure that is minuted.

8. Next meeting

Next meeting – Thursday 20th December

Meeting closed at 11:35am

The GCCC members then inspected the Waukivory 14 well site and were given a tour of Rig 67.

Michael Ulph

GHD – Stakeholder Engagement



ACTION ITEMS			
Action	Responsibility	Complete	Outcome
Michael to re-contact Dan Rose from Forster Aboriginal Land Council prior to the next CCC meeting	Michael Ulph		
Toni Laurie to follow up with AECOM regarding the criteria used to undertake the visual assessment	Toni Laurie		
Toni Laurie to clarify what the depths of the water monitoring bores are for the Waukivory pilot site	Toni Laurie		Emailed November 2, 2012-11-07 : In response to the question taken on notice at the 25 October GCCC meeting regarding the depth of the water monitoring bores associated with the Waukivory Pilot, there are two sites (east and west) with two monitoring bores each at the following depths: 54m and 360m; and 62m and 210m.
AGL to provide a link to the new Policy to Michael for distribution to CCC	David Kelly		http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/slurp
AGL to clarify the photography issue.	Therese Ryan		



25 October 2012

**AGL GLOUCESTER GAS PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

BRIEFING PAPER ON THE NSW STRATEGIC REGIONAL LAND USE POLICY

1. Executive Summary

On 11 September 2012 the NSW Government released it's final Strategic Regional Land Use Policy Package (SRLUP).

The SRLUP includes 27 new measures designed to provide greater protection for farmers and to better balance competing land uses. The Policy which has been in the making for some 16 months has been the subject of extensive community and stakeholder engagement during which 2,000 submissions were received and over 1,100 people attended public forums and information sessions.

2. SRLUP Overview

The SRLUP package includes:

1. *Strategic Regional Land Use Plan – New England North West,*
2. *Strategic Regional Land Use Plan – Upper Hunter,*
3. *Aquifer Interference Policy,* and
4. CSG specific codes of practice:
 - *the Code of Practice for Coal Seam Gas – Well Integrity,* and
 - *the Code of Practice for Coal Seam Gas – Fracture Stimulation Activities.*

The Strategic Regional Land Use Plans and the Gateway Process

The new *Strategic Regional Land Use Plans for the New England North West* and the *Upper Hunter* specify land as being Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land or part of a Critical Industry Cluster, and also impose a new Gateway Process for mining and CSG projects.

If the gateway process is triggered then an application for a gateway certificate must be lodged and a gateway certificate obtained before the project can proceed to assessment under the NSW planning regime. The Gateway assessment will be undertaken by an independent Mining and Coal Seam Gas Gateway Panel (Panel), comprising experts in agricultural science, water and mining.



Aquifer Interference Policy

The aim of this Policy is to ensure that no more than “minimal harm” is done to water levels, water quality and water pressures by these high risk activities.

The Policy provides licensing, assessment and approval of “high risk” aquifer interference activities relating to groundwater and aquifers.

The Codes of Practice

The new CSG codes of practice contain detailed standards regulating well integrity and hydraulic fracture stimulation (or fracing) activities.

The *Code of Practice for Coal Seam Gas – Well Integrity* contains both mandatory requirements and recommendations for the CSG wells which cover a range of aspects including:

1. well design,
2. casing,
3. cementing,
4. well heads,
5. drilling fluids,
6. logging and testing,
7. monitoring and maintenance, and
8. abandonment.

Similarly, the *Code of Practice for Coal Seam Gas – Fracture Stimulation Activities* sets out both mandatory requirements and recommendations for fracing. These include the preparation of, and compliance with, a fracture stimulation management plan which must include details of:

1. stakeholder consultation,
2. fracture stimulation design,
3. risk assessment,
4. the use of chemicals in fracture stimulation, and
5. water management.

Compliance with the new codes of practice will be accomplished by imposing conditions requiring compliance on all petroleum exploration licences and petroleum production leases.

The release of this code therefore lifts the NSW Government’s moratorium on fracing.

Creation of a NSW Land and Water Commissioner

The new Commissioner will have oversight and community advisory role for exploration across the State and will have the ability to review any exploration approval and advise government and the community if the assessment has occurred in accordance with regulations, policies and Acts. The Commissioner will also oversee finalisation and implementation of standard land access agreements for exploration activities.

Agricultural Impact Statements



The requirement for an Agricultural Impact Statement will ensure that proponents demonstrate that impacts on agricultural land and resources are avoided or minimised to acceptable levels and are required at the both the exploration and production stages of development.

Title Renewals

With the CSG industry now subject to the strictest controls in Australia, the NSW Government has commenced the process of renewing exploration licences by making offers of renewal to a number of CSG companies across the State.

All new and renewed licences will be subject to the new licence requirements, a number of which will be included as a title condition such as the inclusion of community consultation conditions and the release of community consultation guidelines.

Other related NSW Government announcements:

A range of corresponding announcements are also expected:

1. the five year royalty holiday for coal seam gas producers will end;
2. new Regional Community Funds will be established which will see local communities receive a share of their region's assets;
3. a review into security bonds currently held by the Government;
4. introduction of a community comment process on licence applications;
5. updated, improved environmental assessment guidelines for exploration activities.;
6. publication of approvals for exploration activities on the Division of Resources and Energy (DRE) website;
7. introduction of an industry levy to fund enhanced regulatory and communication capabilities within DRE, and
8. a review of security bonds and penalties is expected shortly.

Next steps

The new measures contained in the SRLUP Package will be enacted as follows:

1. an amendment to the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007* (Mining SEPP) to give effect to the gateway process. The NSW Government has announced the proposed amendments to the Mining SEPP will be exhibited for public comment shortly;
2. the preparation of further Strategic Regional Land Use Plans covering the Central West, the Southern Highlands, the Western, the Murrumbidgee and the Alpine regions of NSW;
3. the finalisation of the draft *Code of Practice for Coal Seam Gas Exploration*;
4. the preparation of standard form land access agreements for CSG exploration; and
5. the preparation and public exhibition of a draft guideline on triple bottom line cost benefit analysis methodology for use by applicants who choose to submit such an analysis as part of the assessment of their project under the NSW planning regime.