NSW GAS PLAN
Protecting what’s valuable
Securing our future
The NSW Government’s Gas Plan is a clear, strategic framework to deliver world’s best practice regulation of the gas industry while securing vital gas supplies for the State.

In March 2011, petroleum titles or applications covered 45% of this State, without adequate protections. There was a lack of oversight and planning for the safe extraction of petroleum resources in NSW. Residents and communities near petroleum extraction activities made their concerns known to Government. We listened and put in place the most comprehensive regulatory standards for this industry in Australia.

The NSW Government has already introduced tough new requirements for gas producers which include a two kilometre exclusion zone around residential and village areas, an Aquifer Interference Policy, a Code of Practice for Well Integrity, banning harmful BTEX chemicals and evaporation ponds. In all, we’ve already introduced 30 new measures.

Now, we intend to do a great deal more to protect our precious water supplies, farmland, environment and local communities while securing our vital energy supplies.

The Gas Plan demonstrates the NSW Government’s commitment to support the safe, sustainable development of a local gas industry, which balances the needs of the community, the economy and the environment. Tough new legislation will be introduced, with landholders and communities sharing in any financial benefits from approved gas exploration activities.

We have accepted all the Chief Scientist and Engineer’s recommendations.

We have been listening to communities and landholders across NSW about their environmental and social concerns. We also recognise the need to secure our future gas supply needs in NSW.

About 500 heavy industries demand 75% of the State’s gas supplies. Another 15% is used by 33,000 NSW businesses. More than a million households also rely on gas each day for cooking and heating.

The Australian Energy Market Operator predicts that NSW could face gas shortages in the next five years, if things do not change. To put downward pressure on energy prices and secure supply, we need the growth of viable gas projects. It’s that simple.

The Gas Plan addresses the concerns of the public and the needs of more than a million households, businesses and industries which rely on an affordable and consistent gas supply. It is a historic framework which will give us both a strong environmental and economic future on the back of best practice regulation and management of the energy sector.

Anthony Roberts MP

Minister for Resources and Energy
Gas development is currently dividing our community. NSW is rich in gas resources, but only five percent of the gas we consume is produced in NSW. Without affordable and reliable gas supplies our manufacturers will struggle to compete and households will pay higher prices. A reset to the approach to gas development is clearly required.

Government recognises that gas development in NSW concerns some of our communities, and that mistakes have been made.

A reset to the approach to gas development is clearly required.

That is why we commissioned independent expert advice for Government on the coal seam gas industry in NSW and appropriate regulatory standards. In February 2013, NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, Professor Mary O’Kane, was requested to conduct a comprehensive review of coal seam gas activities, focussing on the human health and environmental impacts.


The report of the Chief Scientist and Engineer is clear that the risks of gas development can be effectively managed with the right regulation, engineering solutions and constant learning through monitoring and research.

We welcome the report, which has given us a roadmap to establish a world leading industry that is safe and sustainable.

The Government accepts all of the Chief Scientist’s recommendations.

This Gas plan builds on that scientific evidence base and sets a clear direction for gas exploration and production in NSW.

The Plan identifies five priority pathways to reset NSW’s approach to gas:

1. Better science and information to deliver world’s best practice regulation
2. Pause, reset and recommence: Gas exploration on our terms
3. Strong and certain regulation
4. Sharing the benefits
5. Securing NSW gas supply needs

Under each of the priorities are clear actions that the Government will implement. The Plan will represent a ‘line in the sand’ for improving the regulatory framework for the onshore gas industry in NSW while delivering gas safely for the benefit of NSW citizens and businesses.
Introduction

We will use the evidence and analysis provided by the Chief Scientist and Engineer to build a better scientific base for policy and regulation for the coal seam gas sector in NSW. Communities and industry can have confidence in world’s best practice regulation, monitoring, and compliance.

We will appoint the independent Environment Protection Authority (EPA) as the lead regulator for gas exploration and production. We expect the EPA to be proactive and fearless in its new compliance and enforcement role.

Our Plan will ensure that key existing Strategic Energy Projects in Gloucester and Narrabri and NSW’s sole production project in Camden will be required to meet new environmental standards. We will monitor their performance to determine the capacity of the industry to expand into other areas.

We will dramatically reduce the coverage of gas exploration licences across NSW by extinguishing all current applications and implementing a one-off buy back of existing licences.

We will maintain our freeze on new exploration licences and ensure that when future gas exploration does occur, it happens on our terms, and only after a comprehensive examination of the environmental, social, and economic factors has been considered.

Our Plan will guarantee a better deal for our farmers and landholders who host gas exploration and production on their properties. We want our farmers to be partners in the process and receive benefits that are as good as or better than landholders in other states.

A new Community Benefits Fund will also ensure that communities benefit from gas development through local infrastructure projects.

We will work to secure NSW energy supply needs and put downward pressure on household gas bills by working with other Governments to explore possibilities to expand gas pipelines to NSW. In addition we’ve secured commitments from the major proposed gas projects in NSW that, if approved and developed, they will supply substantive amounts of gas into the NSW market.

We believe that the safe and sustainable development of an onshore gas industry in NSW will bring significant benefits to households and businesses across the state. These benefits will be delivered by a strong, certain and trusted regulatory system, supported by science and information.
What the NSW Government has done to date

The NSW Government has already made substantial progress in improving the regulatory standards that apply to gas exploration and production. We have also provided more support and advice for communities and landholders. Some of the key reforms include:

**Protecting key areas**

1. **Freeze on new Petroleum Exploration Licences**
   The Government has not issued any new petroleum exploration licences since April 2011.

2. **Preventing coal seam gas activities in sensitive areas**
   Exclusion zones were introduced in 2012 to prevent approval of new coal seam gas activities within two kilometres of residential zones and within critical industry clusters. The NSW Government also put a hold on coal seam gas activities in the Special Areas of the Sydney Water Catchment.

3. **Aquifer Interference Policy**
   The Aquifer Interference Policy was developed to protect aquifers and groundwater by setting objective criteria to assess the potential impact of all activities, including gas activities, on our valuable water resources.

   The policy also requires any mining or petroleum activity that uses more than three mega-litres of water per year to hold a water access licence from the NSW Office of Water. This ensures that water is available for the environment and all water users, consistent with water sharing plans. Modelling and monitoring of changes in the water resource is a critical element of the policy.

**Increasing safety levels**

1. **Increased scrutiny of new proposals to ensure that decisions are based on the latest science**
   The independent expert Gateway Panel reviews all proposed mineral and petroleum developments on strategic agricultural land to identify potential impacts on water and agriculture and how those effects can be mitigated.

   In addition, all proposed coal seam gas and coal mining developments that could have a significant impact on a water resource are referred to the Commonwealth’s Independent Expert Scientific Committee for advice.

2. **Increased regulatory oversight**
   The Government has increased regulatory oversight of gas development by establishing a dedicated Office of Coal Seam Gas. All coal seam gas activities are now subject to Environment Protection Licences issued by the Environment Protection Authority, which impose strict site specific controls that are legally enforceable.
3. Ban on the use of BTEX chemicals
In March 2012, the NSW Government banned the use of harmful BTEX chemical compounds in all drilling and hydraulic fracturing activities. BTEX stands for the volatile organic compounds of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene, which were used interstate and overseas in hydraulic fracturing (fracking) operations.

All chemical fluids used in hydraulic fracturing must be publicly disclosed to, and approved by, the Office of Coal Seam Gas. All coal seam gas drilling additives must be tested by a National Association of Testing Authorities-certified laboratory and demonstrated to meet Australian drinking water health guidelines.

4. Codes of practice on well integrity and fracture stimulation
These codes of practice, introduced in 2012, require gas companies to apply best practice in well construction and fracking activities.

Wells in NSW are required to have three layers of concrete and steel.
This ensures that the risk of gas or fluids escaping from the well is extremely low, protecting groundwater and soils.

Greater consultation
1. NSW Land and Water Commissioner
In June 2012 the NSW Government created the role of the NSW Land and Water Commissioner. The position is held by Jock Laurie, former President of the National Farmers Federation. The Commissioner’s role is to provide independent advice to landholders and communities in relation to mining and gas activities in NSW.

The Commissioner is a key source of information and guidance to assist landholders and communities to better understand the way that mining and gas activities are approved and regulated in NSW, and to give them a say in how things are done.

2. Reforms to land access arbitration
On 15 April 2014, the NSW Government commissioned Mr Bret Walker SC to undertake an independent review of the land access arbitration processes relating to exploration under the Mining Act 1992 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991.

The Walker Report made 31 recommendations to improve the arbitration land access framework. The NSW Government has endorsed all the recommendations in the Walker Report relating to the current arbitration framework and committed to a process of implementation commencing immediately where possible.

This will make the arbitration process more efficient, balanced and transparent, and ensure that the reasonable cost of negotiating an access arrangement is borne by gas companies, not landholders.
The NSW Gas Plan resets the approach to gas development in NSW through 17 key actions under five priority pathways.

**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

**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

5. Petroleum exploration titles will be removed from National Parks

6. 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

**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

9. Strategic Energy Projects which benefit NSW gas consumers will receive whole of Government coordination

10. Policy and regulatory reform will provide greater regulatory clarity for industry and communities

**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

15. Gas companies will be asked to demonstrate how projects that develop NSW gas reserves will benefit NSW gas consumers

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

17. We will support households and businesses to use gas more efficiently to help reduce their bills and release pressure on overall gas supplies
Priority 1
Better science and information to deliver world’s best practice regulation

The Chief Scientist and Engineer released her Final Report of the Independent Review of Coal Seam Gas Activities in NSW on 30 September 2014. The Final Report concluded that, in general, the technical challenges and risks posed by the coal seam gas industry can be managed through:

» careful designation of areas appropriate for coal seam gas extraction
» high standards of engineering and professionalism in coal seam gas companies
» creation of a whole-of-environment data portal so that data from coal seam gas industry operations can be interrogated by the community and regulators
» comprehensive monitoring of coal seam gas operations with ongoing automatic scrutiny of the resulting data
» a well-trained and certified workforce, and
» application of new technological developments as they become available.

Action 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

Our response to the Chief Scientist and Engineer’s recommendations has been released with the Gas Plan.

We will invest in better and more accessible data and information as the foundation for a respectful and open dialogue with the community. This includes development of an online portal that will bring together environmental data collected by NSW regulators and make it easier for the community to view and interact with this information.

We will expand the NSW Office of Water monitoring bore network and surface water quality monitoring. The network of 3,500 bores across the state provides data to quickly identify and respond to pressure on our water resources. Hundreds of these bores are equipped for real-time monitoring, and this information is available online to anyone, anywhere.

Drawing on the Government’s existing datasets, the Groundwater Baseline Project is gathering the facts we need to make informed decisions that ensure our water resources are protected.

Starting in the Gunnedah, Gloucester and Clarence Moreton basins, experts have studied groundwater availability in these areas and carefully analysed where industries such as agriculture and mining draw their water and the volume allocated. This project is now being rolled out across the state.

We will provide clear information to the community on gas supply and demand trends and projections to make it clear why we need to act.

This new data will feed directly into our conversations with local communities and the decisions made by regulators.

The Government’s full response to the Chief Scientist and Engineer’s Report can be found at www.nsw.gov.au.
Petroleum titles and applications now cover 60% of the state. Under this Plan, the Government will reduce the land covered by titles and applications to 15% of the state - a reduction of about 75%.

In the past, applications for petroleum exploration licences were granted at a cost of only $1,000. Some titleholders were very small firms with little or no experience in the petroleum industry and environmental protections were inadequate.

The areas for exploration were identified by proponents, rather than being informed by a transparent process run by Government, based on an understanding of where potential resources may lie. Titles were granted over any area in the state, including National Parks and urban areas where there was no prospect of ever being able to drill, as well as areas with very little prospect of extracting any economic volumes of gas.

This practice needlessly alarmed many local communities and contributed to misunderstandings between communities and industry.

This Plan resets the Government’s approach to issuing petroleum exploration licences and titles so it is transparent, informed and strategic. Gas exploration and development will be undertaken on our terms and terms that meet community expectations. There will be no more ad hoc, inappropriate applications to explore that take the community by surprise.

**Action 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**

The NSW Government will introduce a Strategic Release Framework to release areas for gas exploration.

Strategic release will provide for greater control over publicly-owned petroleum resources. It will enable the Government to identify the most appropriate areas for gas extraction, ensure community consultation is conducted up-front and put the title area out for public expressions of interest so that the Government can identify the most suitable and capable proponents.

New exploration licences will only be issued in areas released by the Minister for Resources and Energy after a careful assessment of economic, environmental and social factors. This will draw on the new approach to coal exploration recommended by the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

**Action 3**
**Legislation will be introduced in 2014 to extinguish all current petroleum exploration licence applications**

While we work with the community and industry to get the strategic release program in place, we will maintain the freeze on assessing new applications for petroleum exploration licences.

We will also immediately introduce legislation to extinguish the 16 applications for Petroleum Exploration Titles and Petroleum Special Prospecting Authorities received before the freeze, which cover 43% of the State. Application fees paid by those companies will be refunded.

Importantly, no new applications will be considered until the Strategic Release Framework is in place.
NSW Gas Plan priorities and actions

Petroleum Titles and Applications – April 2011

Petroleum Titles, Applications & Exclusion Zones – Oct 2014
(following passage of the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (NSW Gas Plan) Bill 2014 and removal of National Parks from titles)
### Action 4
**The Government will establish a one off buy-back of petroleum exploration licences**
Because unused licences cause unnecessary angst, a one-off buy back of Petroleum Exploration Licences will be offered by the NSW Government to existing title holders across the state. This will provide an opportunity for holders of petroleum exploration licences to surrender their titles in exchange for limited compensation.

### Action 5
**Petroleum exploration titles will be removed from National Parks**
The gas industry should not be able to operate within NSW National Parks. The NSW Government will modify existing Petroleum Exploration Licences to remove areas that have been granted over National Parks. This will reduce the total area covered by petroleum titles by about 11%.

### Action 6
**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**
Presently, 15% of the state is under active petroleum title, but there are currently only three active project areas in the state – Camden, Gloucester and Narrabri.

The Government will implement and enforce a ‘use it or lose it’ policy in relation to titleholders in New South Wales. We will seek from titleholders serious commitments to invest in this state by the end of 2015. If a serious commitment to invest in the state cannot be demonstrated, companies may face cancellation of their titles.

This will give communities greater clarity and certainty about gas industry intentions.
We recognise that the Government needs to build community confidence in the way we regulate gas development in NSW. We will reform our regulatory framework as recommended by the Chief Scientist and Engineer so that evidence based, best practice standards are in place and regulators have the tools, resources and capabilities needed to hold the industry to account.

We will immediately start work on building the capacity of our regulators so that they have the technical and regulatory skills and expertise to provide the level of oversight expected by the community.

**Action 7**

The independent Environment Protection Authority will be appointed as the lead regulator for gas exploration and production

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will become the lead regulator for compliance and enforcement of conditions of approval for gas activities, including consent conditions and activity approvals.

The current regulatory arrangements for onshore gas extraction can be confusing for communities and gas companies alike. Empowering the EPA to lead compliance and enforcement will give individuals and communities one place to go should they believe violations of title, regulations or law are occurring. It also means that one agency will be able to focus its energies on undertaking compliance and enforcement work. We expect the EPA to be proactive and fearless in its new compliance and enforcement role.

All gas activities, including conventional gas, coal seam gas, tight gas and shale gas, will be required to hold an Environment Protection Licence issued by the EPA.

**Action 8**

World best practice environmental and regulatory standards will be applied to gas exploration and production

As an immediate priority, the Government will lift industry performance through minimum standards for assessment of applications, to ensure that titleholders have the necessary skills and financial backing to meet the Government’s expectations.

In 2015, we will introduce new licence conditions on gas licences that are clear about the outcomes Government requires to be achieved and promote best practice, but still leave space for innovation. They will be reviewed regularly and updated to keep up with international best practice. Conditions will be tailored as necessary to respond to the risks associated with different places and activities, backed up by new and revised Codes of Practice. This new modern approach will provide a clear regulatory basis for measuring and enforcing compliance.

**Action 9**

**Strategic Energy Projects which benefit NSW gas consumers will receive whole of Government coordination**

To ensure that gas production is progressed as efficiently and safely as possible, projects which demonstrate that they will provide substantive amounts of gas into the NSW market will be designated as Strategic Energy Projects (see Action 15). Case managers will be appointed to these projects to provide whole of government coordination and to facilitate focussed assessment and determination of key approvals. There will be no reduction in the environmental standards or community consultation required of these projects.

**Action 10**

Policy and regulatory reform will provide greater clarity for industry and communities

To make it clear who is responsible for approving gas development, the Government will amend the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 so that all gas exploration is assessed and determined by the Minister for Resources and Energy and all gas production is assessed and determined by the Minister for Planning or the independent Planning Assessment Commission. This will help the community and industry to hold the Government accountable for its decisions. All activities will continue to be subject to rigorous environmental assessment.
**Priority 4**
**Sharing the benefits**

The Government will ensure that landholders and communities share in the benefits of gas development.

We are already working to improve the way that land access arrangements are negotiated and arbitrated, including by implementing the recommendations of the Walker Review.

**Action 11**
**Legislation will be introduced to ensure that landholders share in the financial benefits of gas exploration and production**

The NSW Government intends that landholders share in the financial benefits of gas activities and receive compensation that is at least as good as that received by other landholders in Australia who host gas development.

The NSW Government will mandate by law that landholders are entitled to receive compensation for petroleum exploration and production, to ensure they are partners in the exploration and production of gas, and benefit from better incentives to facilitate safe and sustainable development.

**Action 12**
**Landholders will receive independent expert advice on benchmark compensation rates for gas exploration and production from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal**

To give landholders the support they need to negotiate their share of the benefits, the Government will commission the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal to benchmark compensation rates annually. The Tribunal will be asked to consider both fixed rate compensation and compensation that takes into account the economic benefits of exploration and production over the expected life of the wells. These benchmarks can be used as a guide by landowners in their compensation agreements with industry.

**Action 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**

We recognise that communities can be impacted by gas development, often beyond the impact of the actual development site itself. Communities who host gas exploration and production should also enjoy benefits in line with the economic contribution the project will make to the state.

The Government will establish a Community Benefits Fund, with voluntary contributions from both gas companies and the NSW Government to fund local projects in communities where gas exploration and production occurs.

Companies may choose to make upfront payments that are then credited against future royalty payments to ensure that communities can access benefits early. We will begin consultation on our approach to the Fund shortly.
The Australian Energy Market Operator predicts that NSW gas users could face potential gas shortages in the near future. Our gas consumers are also already starting to feel the pressure of increased prices, with the regulated price of gas this year increasing by 11.2%.

To protect NSW families and the jobs of thousands employed in gas dependent manufacturing industries, it is vital that we act to secure gas resources for NSW. Domestic gas production is a crucial and necessary part of that strategy.

The Government will take action to rebalance supply and demand by diversifying sources of supply to NSW, encouraging more efficient use of gas and driving national reforms to improve the efficiency of the wholesale market.

**Action 14**
The Government will work with other State and Territory Governments and the private sector to explore the possibilities for gas pipelines to NSW

The NSW Government is actively exploring all possibilities to increase gas supply to domestic consumers. In November 2014, the NSW Government entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Northern Territory Government to assist in exploring opportunities to examine the feasibility of developing a gas pipeline linking Alice Springs to the East Coast Gas Market at Moomba, South Australia. This could include assisting the Northern Territory Government to determine the feasibility of a privately-owned and operated pipeline linking the vast Northern Territory gas reserves to the East Coast Market and its consumers.

The Government will also investigate opportunities to increase pipeline capacity from Victoria and South Australia to help alleviate supply issues faced by NSW.

**Action 15**
Gas companies will be asked to demonstrate how projects that develop NSW gas reserves will benefit NSW gas consumers

The NSW Government will request gas companies to voluntarily disclose information about their gas supply arrangements to demonstrate how the development of NSW gas reserves will benefit NSW gas consumers. The Government will take into account genuine commercial-in-confidence requirements companies may have.

The Government will review this information and provide public recognition of those companies making a contribution to NSW’s gas supply. Only projects verified through this process will receive Strategic Energy Project status.

**Key current gas supply projects in NSW**
The Camden gas project has been operating for over ten years and provides approximately five per cent of the gas consumed in NSW.

The Gloucester gas project is currently in the exploration phase. The operators of this project have publicly committed to supplying all future gas supply from this project, if approved and developed, for the benefit of NSW consumers.

The Narrabri gas project is currently under assessment in the NSW Planning System for gas production. The operators of this project have publicly committed that all gas produced from this project, if approved and developed, will be made available to the NSW market.

The NSW Government expects these and other projects to meet the new higher standards of environmental performance and build a positive and productive relationship with the local community. Investment in data and monitoring is a key part of this relationship.

The NSW Government will continue to monitor the performance of these projects in meeting world’s best practice environmental regulation to determine the capacity of the industry to expand in NSW.
**Action 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.

It is important that NSW attracts investment for gas development by companies that can reach our high regulatory standards and undertake exploration and production activities responsibly. The NSW Government will appoint an independent expert to undertake a review of the settings required to develop a competitive gas industry in NSW and secure our supply needs. The review will consider the royalty payment regime for petroleum production in NSW, benchmarked against other jurisdictions. The review will provide recommendations to Government on the settings required to facilitate investment in securing NSW’s gas supply needs. These recommendations will be provided to Government in May 2015.

**Action 17**

We will support households and businesses to use gas more efficiently to help reduce their bills and release pressure on overall gas supplies.

In parallel, we will support households and businesses to use gas more efficiently to help reduce their bills and release pressure on overall gas supplies, by:

- Assisting gas users including industry and households to implement gas efficiency projects, including by expanding the Energy Savings Scheme to include gas, and
- Leveraging the Commonwealth Government’s Direct Action Plan to facilitate gas efficiency in NSW.
Conclusion

We believe that the safe and sustainable development of an onshore gas industry in NSW will bring significant benefits to households and businesses across the state. These benefits will be delivered by a strong, certain and trusted regulatory system, supported by science and information.

» We will deliver real change under 17 key actions.

» The NSW Government accepts all the recommendations of the Chief Scientist and Engineer and we are drawing a “line in the sand” for a new and better approach for our communities and industry.

» We will immediately reduce the area of land subject to petroleum titles to 15% of the state and lift the bar for new applicants.

» The Government will fundamentally change the way we allocate petroleum exploration licences, with upfront assessment of economic, environmental and social factors. Minimum standards will ensure that all licence holders have the capacity to meet the community’s expectations. Transparency will be key.

» We will introduce tougher and clearer regulation, with a lead role for the independent Environment Protection Authority in compliance and enforcement.

» Building on the Chief Scientist’s independent review, we will drive world’s best practice through new licence conditions and codes of practice and continual learning.

» The Government will legislate to ensure that landholders share the financial benefits of gas development.

» We will also invest in better and more accessible data and information as the foundation for a respectful and open dialogue with the community.

» Finally, we will support companies that prioritise gas supply to NSW by actively coordinating government processes.

The Gas Plan delivers a reset for gas development in NSW.