



Anthony Roberts
Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 10 September 2015

TWO NEW SIGNATORIES TO THE AGREED PRINCIPLES OF LAND ACCESS

Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy, Anthony Roberts, today welcomed the Country Women's Association of NSW (CWA of NSW) and Dairy Connect as signatories to the *Agreed Principles of Land Access*, a landmark agreement on land access for gas operations in NSW.

The *Agreed Principles of Land Access* was first signed in March 2014 by gas companies Santos and AGL, and landholder representatives NSW Farmers, Cotton Australia and the NSW Irrigators Council.

Mr Roberts said the principles specifically cover access to private agricultural landholder's property for gas exploration and production drilling operations.

"These principles are based on the values of respect, integrity and trust and ensure landholders can deal with these companies with confidence," Mr Roberts said.

"This commitment shows these professional and capable companies can responsibly develop natural gas resources in NSW whilst recognising the importance of respecting, communicating and working with communities."

All signatories have agreed to the following principles:

- Any Landholder must be allowed to freely express their views on the type of drilling operations that should or should not take place on their land without criticism, pressure, harassment or intimidation. Any Landholder is at liberty to say "yes" or "no" to the conduct of operations on their land;
- Gas companies confirm that they will respect the Landholder's wishes and not enter onto a Landholder's property to conduct drilling operations where that Landholder has clearly expressed the view that operations on their property would be unwelcome; and
- The parties will uphold the Landholder's decision to allow access for drilling operations and do not support attempts by third party groups to interfere with any agreed operations. The parties condemn bullying, harassment and intimidation in relation to agreed drilling operations.

President of CWA of NSW, Tanya Cameron, said: “While the CWA is not taking sides on the issue, we believe landholders should have a voice and the right to make the decisions that suit their families and businesses.

“We believe signing this agreement, along with the other industry organisations, helps to protect this right and takes a lead role in ensuring landholders remain a part of the decision making process. The Agreed Principles of Land Access agreement is a step in the right direction.”

President of the Dairy Connect Farmers’ Group, Graham Forbes, said: “Dairy Connect applauds the Country Women’s Association of NSW and other fellow signatories for the unity and weight given to a farmer’s right to choose what activities do or do not take place on their land.

“This agreement also protects the farmer from being a target of harassment from the gas companies as well as third party opponents. It’s good to see the agricultural and mining industries working together and showing respect to the individual farmer.”

*Attached is a copy of the *Agreed Principles of Land Access*.

*Photo 1 caption left to right: Mike Logan, CEO, Dairy Connect/ Minister Roberts/ Tanya Cameron, President, CWA of NSW.

*Photo 2 caption left to right (standing): Minister Roberts/ Mark McKenzie, CEO, NSW Irrigators Council/ Peter Mitchley, General Manager Energy NSW, Santos/ Michael Johnsen, Member for Upper Hunter.
(seated): Andy Vesey, Managing Director & CEO, AGL/ Tanya Cameron, President, CWA of NSW/ Mike Logan, CEO, Dairy Connect.

Agreed Principles of Land Access

Introduction

These principles have been agreed between landholders and gas companies based on values of respect, integrity and trust.

They have been facilitated between representatives of agricultural landholders and gas companies.

Application

The principles agreed in this document relate to coal seam gas projects in New South Wales and specifically cover access to private agricultural landholder's property (**Landholders**) for coal seam gas drilling operations for exploration and production purposes (**Operations**).

Principles

All parties to this document have agreed the following principles:


1. Any Landholder must be allowed to freely express their views on the type of Operations that should or should not take place on their land without criticism, pressure, harassment or intimidation. A Landholder is at liberty to say "yes" or "no" to the conduct of Operations on their land;
2. Gas companies confirm that they will respect the Landholder's wishes and not enter onto a Landholder's property to conduct Operations where that Landholder has clearly expressed the view that Operations on their property would be unwelcome; and
3. The Parties will uphold the Landholder's decision to allow access for Operations and do not support attempts by third party groups to interfere with any agreed Operations. The Parties condemn bullying, harassment and intimidation by third party groups and individuals in relation to the agreed operations.

On this day, Friday the 28th of March 2014, we the undersigned parties hereby agree to abide by the principles in this document.

Santos



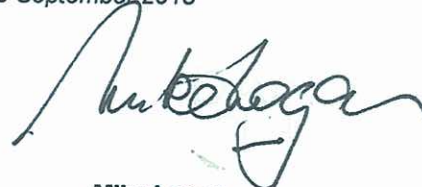
Peter Mitchley
General Manager - Energy New South Wales
Santos Ltd.



Andy Vesey
Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer
AGL Energy Ltd.
10 September 2015



Tanya Cameron
President
Country Women's Association (NSW)
10 September 2015



Mike Logan
Chief Executive Officer
Dairy Connect
10 September 2015



Matt Brand
Chief Executive Officer
NSW Farmers Association



Leah Ross
obo Lyndon Mulligan
Chairman
Cotton Australia Ltd.



Stefanie Schulte
obo Richard Stott
Chairman
NSW Irrigators Council