

# **Namoi Community Network**

**Media Release  
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## **Minister Hartcher misrepresents Namoi Water Study findings**

Members of the Namoi Community Network have hit back at what they say are misleading claims made by Minerals and Resources Minister Chris Hartcher, that mining and coal seam gas exploration poses little or 'minimal' risk to the water sources in the Namoi Catchment.

Final public presentations of the Namoi Catchment Water Study were presented by the contractors SWS (Schlumberger Water Services) last week in Gunnedah and Quirindi.

Spokesperson for the Namoi Community Network, Peter Watson from Boggabri said that "Minister Hartcher's comments were reckless and designed to try and sweep the findings of the Water Study under the carpet.

"The presentations I attended showed that under differing Scenarios there were risks to aquifers and water sources varying from minimum to high.

"Contrary to Minister Hartcher's misleading claims that Scenario 3 'is and extreme case' it is actually based on what is happening in the Catchment now and what is in the pipeline for approvals.

"One third of the Namoi Catchment's landscape and water sources will be affected by these industries mainly in the central part of the Catchment from Quirindi to Narrabri.

"From Scenario 3 to Scenario 7 there are high risks in the hard rock areas and Scenario 6 paints a grim future for groundwater under the alluvium.

"Even the Consultants acknowledge there are significant information and data gaps on which they based their report and said that 'more work needs to be done'," he said.

"We need to manage our natural resources carefully and the Water Study presents significant information to say 'tread cautiously' when assessing exploration developments in the Catchment", Mr Watson said.

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