

V.1 MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGO until 23rdth October 2012

Namoi Catchment Water Study gathers dust.

The Namoi Community Network has met to review the completion of the Namoi Catchment Water Study.

The group has expressed deep concerns that the serious risks raised by the Study on the impacts of mining and gas extraction on ground and surface water will be *'swept under the carpet'*.

In particular, the Study is still not complete as several crucial elements have not been delivered. These include;

1. The release of Scenario 7, which models intensive Hunter Valley type development of the extractive industries in the Namoi Valley.
2. The Peer Review of the final Report. Many of the findings are alarming yet industry players such as Santos and political figures such as Minister Hartcher have sought to understate and dismiss the impacts.
3. The provision of the Schlumberger computer model and underlying data to the Namoi Catchment Management Authority to ensure that the Study can be kept current. Already there are new mines and petroleum exploration areas which are not included in the study.

"Minister for Resources and Energy, Chris Hartcher has put his foot on the gas without the science being in." said Hugh Price, Chairman of the Namoi Community Network.

"Despite the clear findings that there will be "high" risk to the groundwater levels in Irrigation Zone 5, Zone 7 and Zone 11 and further "moderate" impacts to Zones 4, 8, and 9, and high risk to stock and domestic water in the fractured rock water resources, the study is gathering dust while the government rolls out the red carpet to Santos, Shenhua, Whitehaven and others" said Mr Price.

"The community of the Namoi Catchment and the wider Gunnedah Basin need to know that we are going to have sustainable development of the minerals and energy resources of this region alongside our existing industries. **But** this is clearly not the case with much of the region experiencing a greater than 5 meter drawdown according to the drawdown maps shown for scenario 3, and an unknown quantity of freshwater draining into salty coal seams." he said.

Further analysis and comment will be made available in the near term.

Phone: Hugh Price 0429 352903 for interview and comment.

Note: The following tables and figures are taken from the appendices of the final report of the Namoi Catchment Water Study.

Study.<http://www.namoicatchmentwaterstudy.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=317529>

Table E2 Risk of impacts to groundwater levels and confidence in predictions

Management Area / Zone	Risk	Confidence	Source	
Upper Namoi Alluvium Zone 1	Low	Low	Mining	
Upper Namoi Alluvium Zone 2	Low	High	Mining and CSG	
Upper Namoi Alluvium Zone 3	Low	High	Mining	
Upper Namoi Alluvium Zone 4	Moderate	High	Mining	
Upper Namoi Alluvium Zone 5	Moderate	Moderate	Mining and CSG	
Upper Namoi Alluvium Zone 6	Low	Low	Mining and CSG	
Upper Namoi Alluvium Zone 7	High	Low	Mining	
Upper Namoi Alluvium Zone 8	Moderate	Moderate	Mining	
Upper Namoi Alluvium Zone 9	Moderate	Low	Mining and CSG	
Upper Namoi Alluvium Zone 10	Low	Low	Mining and CSG	
Upper Namoi Alluvium Zone 11	High	Moderate	Mining	
Upper Namoi Alluvium Zone 12	Low	High	N/A	
Lower Namoi Alluvium	Low	High	CSG	
Gunnedah Basin	High	Moderate	Mining and CSG	
Oxley Basin	Moderate	High	Low	CSG
Liverpool Ranges Basalt	Low	Moderate	Mining and CSG	
Great Artesian Basin	Low	Moderate	Moderate	CSG
GAB Alluvial	Low	Moderate	CSG	
New England Fold Belt	Low	High	N/A	
Peel Valley Alluvium	Low	High	N/A	
Peel Valley Fractured Rock	Low	High	N/A	
Misc. Alluvium of Barwon Region	Low	High	N/A	
Galarganbone Tertiary Basalt	Low	High	N/A	

Note - highlight colours reversed for Risk & Confidence

Groundwater levels in four locations are determined to be at high risk from coal and gas developments: Upper Namoi Alluvium Zones 7 and 11, the Gunnedah Basin and parts of the Oxley Basin Management Areas. Confidence in the predictions for the most heavily utilised areas can be considered high (Upper Namoi Alluvium Zones 2, 3 and 4 and the Lower Namoi Alluvium) or moderate (Upper Namoi Alluvium Zones 5 and 8). In some of the lesser utilised areas, where available data is sparse, the confidence is low.

Figure 4.14 Mining and coal seam gas activities simulated in Scenario 3

