



Friday, 7 September 2012

**Letter to the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald**

The NSW Government is not considering a plan for hundreds of coal seam gas wells across Sydney's drinking water catchment ("Plan to drill 150 gas wells across water catchment", *Sydney Morning Herald* – 7/9/12).

Rather, the proposal currently before the Department of Planning and Infrastructure is seeking additional time for Apex to commence exploration activities via 16 previously approved bore holes.

This request is currently on public exhibition until 14 September and submissions from the public are welcomed. The final decision will be made by the independent Planning Assessment Commission.

Should Apex seek to expand its operations in the future, these plans would themselves be the subject of a thorough, public and merit-based assessment.

Yours sincerely,

**RICHARD PEARSON**  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure**