



Namoi Water

Policy Title:	Extractive Industries
Policy Number:	002 V2.0
Date Effective:	17.2.14

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

1. Purpose	To outline Namoi Water's position on Extractive Industries in the Namoi Catchment
2. Scope	Surface Water, Groundwater, Unregulated and Supplementary
3. Definitions	<p>For purposes of this policy, unless otherwise stated, the following definitions shall apply:</p> <p>NW : Namoi Water NSWIC: New South Wales Irrigators Council SPP : State Priority Project NOW : New South Wales Office of Water SWC : State Water Corporation</p>
4. Policy Guidelines	<p>Namoi Water supports the development of sustainable industries in the Namoi Catchment.</p> <p>Principles Ground and Surface Water resources are essential to the Namoi Valley.</p> <p>All forms of water utilised by members of Namoi Water are to be protected to ensure continuity of supply continuing the existing level of access both in terms of quality and quantity indefinitely.</p> <p>Scientifically sound assessment of impacts and risk of any proposed extractive activity including cumulative assessment must be undertaken and made public prior to Government granting approval for both exploration and production approvals.</p> <p>Independent baseline water data on quality quantity including isotope testing and bacterial assessment is part of prudent management system. Water users are subject to this process and fund this through water licencing operations. We seek consistency of data collection to provide monitoring data, model calibration and conditions to provide for cease and desist of activities causing unacceptable impact.</p> <p>Unacceptable impact must be defined based on the above principle that water users both ground and surface must not be impacted either by quality decline through pollution or quantity decline through subsidence impacts or pressure decline.</p>

	<p>Appropriate produced water standards must be developed by government via best available scientific standards. Enforcement of water treatment conditions to meet these standards should regularly monitored by Environmental Protection Authority. If water treatment standards can be applied ensuring that water is of higher quality than the receiving waters then disposal into existing water courses must be under continuous monitoring regime undertaken by NSW Office of Water.</p> <p>Hydraulic Fracking or stimulation methods are considered high risk in the Namoi Valley where ground water resources are highly developed. Current policy position is for a moratorium on this activity. Until such time as the risk to the geology, water resources can be fully assessed and understood and monitored in real time.</p> <p>CSG extraction should not be allowed on prime agricultural land defined as Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land. CSG extraction is not to occur above lands that sit on top of the alluvial aquifers of the Upper and Lower Namoi. *Refer to attached map.</p> <p>Access agreements should conform to the relevant legislation either the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991 or the Mining Act 1992. We note that there is an outstanding issue in relation to third party liability in relation to un-notified access by authorised persons. Until such time this is addressed landholders are encouraged not to enter into access agreements.</p> <p>Landholders must have the right to say No to access by extractive industries. Trespass via drilling underneath should not allowed particularly where the landholders has expressly said no to the activity occurring on their land.</p> <p>Landholders should be advised in writing from NSW Office of CSG when and if their property comes under an application for an exploration licence.</p> <p>Health impacts must be understood and benchmarked prior to any production licences being granted. All benchmark data should be collected by an independent organisation, include air and water quality and other health and environmental data.</p> <p>Government should resind any coal seam gas exploration and production licence, where local communities within an exploration licence, via individual survey, have been declared a CSG free road/area with a majority of 85 percent or above.</p> <p>Mining – coal Government must appoint and resource appropriate agencies to enforce the conditions imposed as part of project approvals. The approvals of development of consent for Coal mines have extensive environmental assessment; in particular the potential of contamination of aquifers and impacts on the catchment.</p> <p>Further Namoi Water supports that;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) No new mining approvals be granted for Open cut mining on alluvial (flood plain) lands b) No new mining approvals be granted for Long wall mining within 150 metres of an third order stream or higher c) Break the nexus implied by fees levied on granting a coal exploration licence and granting a mining licence, and d) Require the granting of all exploration, mining and coal seam
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		<p>gas licences be subject to achieving a triple bottom line benefit and</p> <p>e) Amend relevant legislation to include land owners time as a compensable loss in negotiating access agreements.</p>
5.	References	
6.	Appendices	NA
7.	Approval	<p>Developed by Jon Baker Approved by : Chairman : Matt Norrie Approved by : Vice Chair: Peter Watson</p>
8.	Approval Dates	<p>This policy was approved on: 17.02.14 This version takes effect from: 17.02.14 This policy will be reviewed by: 17.02.15</p>
9.	Policy Owner	<p>Namoi Water is the peak industry group for irrigated agriculture in the Peel, Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi Valleys in the North West of NSW.</p> <p>We are a non-profit, non-political organisation supporting our members to achieve a sustainable irrigation industry that meets the environmental, economic and social needs of our local communities.</p> <p>Contact: Jon-Maree Baker PO Box 548 Narrabri NSW 2390</p> <p>Mb: 0488 925222 Ph: 02 67925222 E: eo@namoiwater.com.au W: www.namoiwater.com.au</p>