

Nats principles come too late

Whilst the Basin Sustainability Alliance welcomes the release of the Federal National Party's Coal Seam Gas (CSG) policy principles which highlight the need to protect groundwater and prime agricultural land, ensure CSG is safe for the environment, and highlight the need for CSG companies to require a "social" license to operate, BSA feels that the principles are a case of too little too late.

Chairman Mr Ian Hayllor said that even though the general principles outlined by the National Party aligned closely to the BSA's "Not at any cost" Blueprint for Sustainable CSG development – a document that was put forward by BSA in March 2011, the Federal National Party had let down the bush on this issue at the last election.

He said while it was heartening to see an attempt to address environmental, community and economic impacts of the industry, there still may be areas where the principles needed to go further. And the elephant in the room is the fact the projects continue to roll on without groundwater and other issues being addressed.

"It is good to see the Federal National Party finally making a stance but at this stage we need them to put pressure on all levels of government. What we really need is bipartisan support and action immediately to address the concerns, not lip-service."

"We look forward to seeing the detail in the discussion paper and in doing so we will be looking to ensure that the policies developed will genuinely support the principles put forward by the party."

BSA, which represents the concerns of landholders and rural communities, continues to liaise with all levels of Government, political parties and industry to highlight issues around the rapid development of the CSG industry.

For more information about BSA go to www.notatanycost.com.au

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