

# **SOUTH EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION INC**

Incorporated under the provisions of The Local Government Act

C/- PO Box 1445  
Mount Gambier 5290

“Old Town Hall”  
Commercial Street East  
Mount Gambier

Phone: 08 8723 1057  
Fax: 08 8723 1286  
Email: [eo@selga.sa.gov.au](mailto:eo@selga.sa.gov.au)

*President:*

*Business Hours - 9.00 am to 5.00 pm - Monday to Friday*

Mayor Richard

Vickery

Saturday, 14 June 2014

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Executive Officer:*

Ann Aldersey

**For further information or interviews please contact: Richard Vickery, SELGA President 0427 097 436 or SELGA Executive Officer Ann Aldersey 0428 854 825.**

*Member Councils:*

## **South East Councils push for caution and strict controls on gas developments**

*City of:*

Mount Gambier

The South East Local Government Association (SELGA) moved several motions at its meeting on Friday, urging State and Federal governments to take note of community concerns over issues associated with exploration and production of unconventional gas.

*Districts of:*

Grant

Kingston

Naracoorte Lucindale

Robe

Currently there is exploration activity in the South East for reserves of tight gas and shale gas to determine the potential for commercial extraction.

Tatiara

Wattle Range

According to SELGA President, Mayor Richard Vickery, “While Local Government has no powers in relation to approval of unconventional gas projects, it is important we consider the issues involved and reflect any concerns to State and Federal ministers. In particular, SELGA can advocate for scientific investigations and decision making that takes into account the specific needs of the South East.”

At the SELGA meeting in Naracoorte, delegates resolved to seek scientific information from the Federal Government’s “Independent Expert Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Mining Development” on the possible impact of tight gas and shale gas exploration and development on the vital water resources of the Limestone Coast.

SELGA delegates also called on the Federal Government to amend the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act to include “tight gas” and “shale gas” under the definition of mining activities where water resources are deemed to be “of national environmental significance”.

In addition, SELGA voted to have the State Government require shale gas, tight gas and geothermal developers obtain a water allocation before extracting water from underground aquifers, to ensure consistency for all water-using industries in the region.

Further, the delegates called for legislative changes by the State Government to require exclusion zones around towns, tourism regions and private dwellings for gas and geothermal developments, and to require landholder approval before entering land for gas or geothermal exploration and production.

To ensure an ongoing dialogue on the issue, SELGA resolved to establish a State and Local Government taskforce to examine all relevant research, community engagement and legislative matters relating to the impact of mining activity in the South East.

Finally the meeting supported a moratorium on unconventional gas extraction in the region until such time as independent analysis is undertaken, and the requests made to the State and Federal Governments have been addressed.

“The debate on these issues was complex and spirited,” said Mayor Vickery, “but I believe we’ve covered the main issues raised by the community and arrived at some sensible resolutions to guide industry and governments.”

ENDS