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Minister for the Environment and Energy

MEDIA RELEASE

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SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT TO PROTECT HUNTER WATER RESOURCES

The Australian Government today released important research to help protect water resources in the Hunter Region of New South Wales.

The scientists assessed the potential for changes in groundwater and surface water due to coal mining and coal seam gas extraction. The Government has invested more than \$90 million to understand the risks associated with these activities.

Wherever possible, we want to encourage investment in our resources – providing much needed jobs for our regional communities. But not at the risk to the environment and the communities that rely on our water.

That's why we've invested in this research. We need strong scientific evidence to be able to make the best decisions in relation to mining activities and mitigate any impacts they may have.

The Hunter bioregional assessment considered the impacts associated with 22 potential new coal mining projects.

My Department will work with proponents of any new projects in the Hunter to understand any impacts before any project is approved.

Further information on the bioregional assessment program and the completed assessments can be found on www.bioregionalassessments.gov.au.

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