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Federal Government must put up funds up for Namoi Water Study

The NSW Farmers' Association is calling on the Federal Government to honour its commitment of \$1.5 million for the Namoi Water Catchment Study.

NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong says the Ministerial Oversight Committee appointed to manage the water study, must be given the financial backing to proceed.

"Farmers in the Namoi Catchment are relying on an independent and transparent study into the impacts of mining and gas exploration on valuable water resources in the catchment," Mr Armstrong said.

Mr Armstrong says the process has reached the stage whereby an independent expert can now be employed to conduct the study. However, funding must be finalised for a tender process to begin.

"A great deal of community goodwill has been established in the development of the terms of reference to conduct the study. Farmers do not want to see that lost," Mr Armstrong said.

"The Association believes an independent scientific assessment of risks to the precious groundwater resource must be undertaken before any further coal mining or gas development occurs in the Namoi Valley," Mr Armstrong said.

Today's call for the Federal Government to honour its funding commitment coincides with the Caroon Coal Action Group lifting its blockade at Rossmar Park in northern NSW.

"The Namoi Water Catchment Study was designed to collate the best available independent data to assist in understanding the risks associated with mining in the Namoi Valley," Mr Armstrong said.

The Namoi Water Study was agreed to by the State and Federal Government following extensive lobbying by the community and NSW Farmers' Association.

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