

GAS WATCH 194.

AGL attempts to create gas price panic.

AGL, clutching at straws and claiming a possible increase in gas prices in the future, tries to panic the NSW Government into reversing its decision to exclude sensitive areas from CGS extraction.

The Australian Petroleum Production and Export Association, APPEA, has weighed in with similar panic statements such as the newly made up phrase - "gas supply crisis".

Will these people stop at nothing to keep their share price up at huge environmental cost?

They claim that the cost of gas will rise because we will have to import it from interstate. Give us a break. 95% of our gas comes from interstate now, so how is there going to be a price effect? And you can rest assured that the majority of coal seam methane sucked out by the CSG miners will go straight overseas.

And lastly, can we give you a quote from the BHP Billiton Petroleum Chief Mike Yeager who said as recently as 14th May, 2012 – ***"We want to make sure that the market knows that we have a lot of gas in eastern Australia that's available. It's more important to let the citizens of Victoria and New South Wales and Queensland know, that there's plenty of gas to supply those provinces indefinitely. We have gas for sale and we will work with anybody at any time."***

AGL – thought of giving Mr. Yeager a call?

Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism industry excluded from Community Consultation Committee.

No representative of Hunter Wines or Tourism will be permitted to attend the next Hunter Community Consultative Committee meeting.

This is a Committee set up to facilitate consultation between AGL and the local community. The regular representative gave the chair some weeks notice that he couldn't attend the March meeting and asked that a substitute attend on his behalf. The Chair, who has a discretion to allow observers and guests to attend and either take part in the meeting or not, has refused.

"I will not be extending any discretionary invitations to non committee members, with the exception of those already made." said Chair Margaret MacDonald-Hill. What is the point of having a Consultation Committee meeting at all if there is to be no consultation? Why won't the Chair exercise her discretion? The community is the only loser here. Again there will be no opportunity for the winegrowing community to find out AGL's intentions or to make them accountable for their actions in the winegrowing areas of the Hunter Valley.

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