

GAS WATCH 205.

Confusion over Interim Coal Seam Gas Protocol.

This week the NSW Government issued its Interim Protocol that appeared to provide for removal of some land from the promised CSG exclusion zones.

Whilst the wording of the protocol is very confusing, when read with the announcements of Premier O'Farrell, and others, it appears abundantly clear:

- that there will be no interference with the Critical Industry Clusters – neither equine nor viticulture;
- that there will be no lands within those clusters excised from exclusion;
- that there will be no “swiss cheese” approach to the current critical Industry Cluster mapping.

“A two kilometre exclusion zone will be imposed around residential zones to prevent new CSG exploration, assessment and production activities (both surface and underground); Exclusion zones will apply to identified Critical Industry Clusters – viticulture and the equine industry”. “These exclusion zones will apply to any CSG activity that has not yet been approved under the EP&A Act or the Petroleum (Onshore) Act.” – Barry O'Farrell Media Release 19/2/2013.

Email to George Souris 19th February, 2013 *“Does this mean we are rid of AGLs threat and that you have honoured the election promise to the wine industry?” –*

“It does.”

“when the SEPP is through it will prohibit CSG exploration and production activity within 2km of residential zonings and within CIC equine and viticulture.” George Souris email 19/2/2013

“These new initiatives include the banning of all new coal seam gas exploration and production activity in certain areas, including the Upper Hunter equine and viticulture critical industry clusters...The ban will be implemented via an amendment to the Mining SEPP.” NSW Planning and Infrastructure 15/3/2013.

“coal seam gas development is prohibited on or under land within a coal seam gas exclusion zone – critical industry cluster land” – Draft SEPP 2013.

Unfortunately for the community within the Critical Industry Cluster Exclusion Zone in the Broke and Bulga areas of the Hunter Valley, **AGL** continues to spend its shareholders money on exploration, advertising in the press on 19th April, 2013 that it proposes to commence further drilling on 8th April. Yes, we got those dates are correct. Just that **AGL** constantly gets the little things wrong, and is advertising something that it said was going to happen, but hasn't. Just imagine how they would cope with important matters? Well we know the answer to that. **AGL** has breached licence conditions many times already.

When will **AGL** accept that it has no future in the vineyards and simply shut up shop and go away? **AGL** has no support for its activities from the community, from Local Government or from State Government. Is **AGL** in denial?

FAREWELL AGL.

HUNTER VALLEY
PROTECTION ALLIANCE

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