

GAS WATCH 207.

O'Farrell snubs community but gets cosy with AGL.

The Premier of NSW has openly snubbed urgent requests for community discussions, but within hours of news being released is happy to privately meet with multinational corporates such as AGL, who are trying to profit from changes to CSG laws.

Within a few days of the Premier announcing exclusion zones from CSG mining, the head of AGL was sitting in the Premier's office to talk about it.

We, the community, have been trying to speak directly with the Premier ever since.

On 31st May the Premier's secretary wrote and told us that the Premier has "*declined our meeting request*" – refused to see us.

We even asked our local member George Souris to make personal representations to the Premier on our behalf.

Any representations George Souris made failed, and George was "sorry to note" it.

We would have hoped that George would have fought tooth and nail on our behalf to make it happen. Clearly George doesn't have the ear of the Premier.

The NSW Government is sitting on its draft State Environmental Planning Policies relating to Coal Seam Gas exclusion zones.

Why?

No doubt it is waiting for the Federal election so that there will be no pressure to care for the environment?

In October, 2012 the community consultation period expired for the draft SEPP bringing in the requirements for Aquifer Interference Policy, the Gateway System, the identification of Strategic Agricultural Land, etc. Changes the Government said would protect sensitive agricultural land. This SEPP still hasn't seen the light of day.

In April, 2013 the consultation period expired for the draft SEPP which set out the exclusion zones – residential zones, critical industry clusters (viticulture) and cic (thoroughbred breeding).

The Government is still sitting on that despite the community having been told that the SEPP would have been enacted by now.

What is this Government hiding? Are they hoping that the opposition to this filthy fossil fuel industry will go away?

Write to Chris Hartcher office@hartcher.minister.nsw.gov.au and George Souris office@souris.minister.nsw.gov.au and ask why this SEPP for exclusion zones hasn't yet been dealt with, and DEMAND that it be dealt with immediately to give the landowners of NSW some security for our future.



www.huntervalleyprotectionalliance.com

28th June, 2013. Contact: Graeme Gibson 65791062