

GAS WATCH 221.

Everyone now agrees it will happen –

All that is now needed is for NSW to enact the law preserving the vineyards from coal seam methane mining.

- 1. AGL Energy now accepts that CSG activity will be excluded from critical industry clusters.**
- 2. The community has been promised by the O'Farrell Government that these exclusion zones will be made law, and accept that this will happen.**
- 3. The Federal coalition says farmers have the right to say “no.**
- 4. All stakeholders now accept it is going to happen.**

Both the community and AGL are now on the same page in relation to having the vineyard areas excluded from CSG activity.

AGL Energy accepted in its financial report released this week that the viticulture and thoroughbred Critical Industry Clusters will be excluded from coal seam methane exploration and mining activity, by slashing its Hunter gas project's book value from over \$200 million to just \$10 million.

The Federal coalition has released its “Coal Seam Gas Management Policy” which states that the Coalition supports the responsible development of the coal seam gas under three co-existence conditions:

- Access to prime agricultural land should only be allowed with the farmer's agreement – the farmer should have the right to say yes or no to coal seam gas exploration and extraction on their property;**
- There is no long term damage to the underground water supply;**
- Agricultural production is not permanently impaired.**

The Hunter needs certainty, and needs that certainty urgently, so it can continue to invest in the sustainable wine and wine tourism industries without the environmental threat of coal seam methane gas mining.

The winegrowing industry and the wine tourism industries look forward to the early enactment of the exclusion zone laws.



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