

GAS WATCH 225.

AGL claims: “New gas sources needed to maintain price.”

“This is nothing but industry spin.”

AGL in a press release today makes more outrageous claims in relation to the coal seam methane gas industry.

Amongst other things AGL spins:

1. *“Coal seam gas is literally just natural gas drawn directly from coal seams” –*

WRONG. It is methane gas drawn from coal seams, unconventionally and often using the controversial fracking technique, through fresh water tables. Released into the environment during the process is Arsenic, Beryllium, Cadmium, Carbon dioxide, Carbon monoxide, Chromium, Copper, Fluoride, Formaldehyde, Lead, Mercury, Nickel, Oxides of Nitrogen, Particulate matter 10 um and 2.5 um, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, sulfur dioxide and volatile organic compounds. Dr Stuart Khan confirmed in a submission to the NSW parliamentary enquiry into CSG that *“drilling through aquifers, impervious rock and coal seam(s) risks “interconnecting” otherwise confined aquifers. In such circumstances, aquifers holding large volumes of pristine water can be contaminated by mixing with other contaminated waters.”*

2. “The coal seam gas industry can co-exist alongside farming activities” –

WRONG. When AGL was previously asked to produce evidence of successful co-existence their GM of methane mining said: *“I know of one petroleum project in California”* which he said had *“a form of co-existence”*. *“One?!”. “A form of?!”* Now that is a convincing argument, isn't it? And that appears to be the best evidence they can produce! Just look at the photos and make up your own mind in relation to co-existence.

3. “AGL has safely produced natural gas from coal seams at Camden for 13 years” –

WRONG. AGL had a gas well blow out sending a stream of goodness knows what into the air when it incorrectly operated a well. AGL has been fined for its air emissions from its Camden plant. AGL failed to comply with the conditions of its Environmental Licence at Camden for a period of 3 years. And more.

4. “With new sources of natural gas in NSW all energy users will benefit from lower energy costs” –

WRONG. *“It's not the lack of supply that is going to drive up gas prices. It's the introduction of CSG as a new form of supply.”* Gas prices in eastern Australia are low by world standards because at the moment they are not linked to prices in the rest of the world. This will change next year with the completion of the first of three large LNG facilities near Gladstone. After this the eastern Australian gas market will be linked to the world market and the world price” – Senior Economist at the Australia Institute.

The coal seam methane industry claims that unless we dramatically increase production of CSG, NSW will have to “import” its gas from other states. This ignores the fact that the whole of eastern Australia is a single gas market. The real problem here stems from the gas industry's plan to export massive amounts of CSG. Once Australia's gas market is linked to the global market then industries which rely heavily on gas will have to pay much higher gas prices set by the global gas market. This will deliver a windfall profit to the CSG exporters at the expense of other industries –

Public Engagement Officer at the Australia Institute.

There is no “gas supply crisis”. This is just a term manufactured by the coal seam methane industry. APPEA, the CSG lobby group, says the rising gas prices are the fault of anti-CSG activists. The Australia Institute says “This is nothing but industry spin”.



www.huntervalleyprotectionalliance.com

3rd October, 2013. Contact: Graeme Gibson 65791062



This is what so called "co-existence" looks like in Queensland. We just can't let it happen here. AGL says that *"on the surface a coal seam gas well head is no bigger than a four wheel drive"*. Believe their words or the actual photographs?