

GAS WATCH 230.

AGL continues to be the neighbour no-one wants.

AGL Energy's contribution to society during 2013.

Thanks again **AGL** for your continued efforts to ruin the environment and to poison the soil and water in your inexorable quest for coal seam methane gas at the expense of sustainable rural industries and at the expense of the quiet enjoyment of residential areas.

You're no better than last year – for the 2012 AGL behaviour see:

<http://huntervalleyprotectionalliance.com/pdf/gaswatch183.pdf>

AGL's community involvement 2013:

- AGL is spraying salty water onto pasture onto the floodplain outside Gloucester, notwithstanding that the EPA described the water as "high strength effluent", in a trial to see what damage will be done to the soil. The EPA report was sidelined even though it gave advice that the action was high risk, threatening valuable agricultural land and would lead to dangerously high salt levels and the potential destruction of farmland. Professor Pells says that should the project continue as planned, 2500 tonnes of salt per year will be sprayed onto the surrounding farmland.
- AGL's Annual Report claimed that their Hunter Petroleum Exploration Licence had been renewed. It hadn't and AGL was forced to correct the report when we brought it to their notice.
- AGL breached its Environment Protection Licence at its Camden gas works by failing to monitor air emissions and committed to pay \$150,000 to an environment project as a result. AGL was also to pay \$10,000 in legal costs. Mike Moraza "deeply regretted the non-compliance". That helps.
- AGL admitted it had breached Australian Consumer Law with its door-to-door sales contractors engaging in conduct that was misleading, deceptive or likely to mislead or deceive and was required to pay \$1.55 million for the breach.
- AGL announced it would frack coal seams in the Hunter Valley vineyards, notwithstanding it had declared at a public meeting that it would not frack because of the danger of the Bulga-Inlet fault line adjacent to the proposed fracking area. Apparently they changed their mind.
- AGL was fined \$35,000 after one of their sales contractors ignored "Do Not Knock" signs.
- The NSW Chief Scientists said in her report that NSW's CSG industry has a "complete lack of solutions" to deal with large quantities of salt, with one pilot project alone producing 5 tonnes of salt per day. And AGL dumps it on good pasture in the guise of a trial.
- In the mapping of exclusion zones, several vineyards were left off the maps causing Greens MP to "believe this is evidence of collusion in the mapping process." The Department said it was an inadvertent mistake.
- Midcoast Water expressed disappointment at the speed of progress of AGL's Gloucester CSG project when AGL announced it planned to frack 4 CSG wells prior to there being comprehensive water studies as required in an agreement signed by AGL with Gloucester Council.
- AGL hijacked the naming rights for the Singleton Agricultural Show which is now, sadly, known as the AGL Singleton Show.
- AGL announced that it would continue to pursue its Hunter CSG exploration despite losing almost \$200 million on the plan in the past year.
- AGL was accused of making "intimidatory" automated phone calls to customers just 2 days after missed bill payments. AGL admitted the calls are "obnoxious" and "too heavy handed" and vowed to change. That helps.
- AGL was under investigation by the EPA for potential breach of an environment protection licence at its Camden Gas Works.
- AGL announced it will start drilling for CSG on the historic Abbey Green property near the Singleton township despite Singleton Council unanimously resolving on no less than 3 occasions that it opposed CSG operations within the Singleton Local Government Area.
- Strangely the AGL CEO Michael Fraser said that he expected "a resurgence of coal-fired power" apparently because of the anticipated decline in the carbon price from 2015 and because gas would be hampered by large price rises now occurring as a number of large gas export projects are being developed in Queensland.

- It was reported that AGL was billed by software Oracle for \$800,000 for breaching Licencing agreements.
- AGL was fined \$1500 for excessive nitrogen oxide emissions at its Camden Gas Works.
- AGL announced that it was considering taking legal action against the NSW Government which announced that there would be CSG exclusion zones around residential areas and critical industry clusters.
- In February AGL started to coin the phrase “gas supply crisis” in response to the announcement of the exclusion zones.
- AGL suddenly put its 66 CSG well expansion in western Sydney on hold after encountering strong community opposition and after NSW Health calling for a “comprehensive assessment of potential risks to human health”.
- On 27th December, 2012 AGL said, unconditionally, that it would not frack coal seams in its 66 CSG well expansion, but on 16th January AGL reversed that pledge.
- Even though AGL gave evidence before the Senate Enquiry that it wouldn't force itself on any landholder, in January AGL applied for a Petroleum Production Lease over more than 5,000 hectares south of Gloucester which would include the first stage of up 110 CSG wells (eventually more than 300 wells), gas and water lines, a gas works, a water processing plan, a power station and pipelines. This after winning a court case against the Gloucester residents.
- AGL claims more than 50% of Gloucester residents saw benefits in AGL's CSG operations in the region. The claim was false. It should have stated it was a phone survey of 200 people.
- In January AGL announced that it would apply for approval to develop 3 CSG wells on the Spring Mountain vineyard near Broke with a Review of Environmental Factors and a Fracking Management plan being lodged. Unfortunately these Reviews and Fracking Management Plans are not made available to the public until they are approved.

So there is AGL's 2013 in a nutshell. There's more, but that's enough surely to outline the outstanding contribution of AGL to the community last year.

Let's hope this year we can finally say “FAREWELL AGL” and see them go back to selling electricity and gas and leaving mining to miners and leaving farming to farmers, and stop ruining our environment.

HAPPY CSG FREE NEW YEAR.



www.huntervalleyprotectionalliance.com

3rd January, 2014. Contact: Graeme Gibson 0418 239359.



Don't let our farmland end up like this!