

GAS WATCH 233.

Minister Hazzard and local MP Souris exhorted by community to protect the whole of the Broke Fordwich winegrowing region from CSG.

The Department of Primary Industry (mapping) has recommended to the Planning Department that the significant winegrowing district of Broke Fordwich be divided up into 9 separate, non-contiguous Critical Industrial Clusters – a Swiss cheese effect - it appears from the latest mapping.

We have written to Minister Hazzard welcoming the mapping of 2 kilometre exclusion zones around the villages of Broke and Bulga.

We have also welcomed the mapping of the viticultural Critical Industry Cluster Exclusion Zone.

But we have brought to the attention of the Planning Minister that:

“the whole of the Broke Fordwich winegrowing region falls within the criteria developed by your Department and, that when considering the final governing legislation you take into account not only the mapping of the vineyards within the Broke Fordwich winegrowing region, but the region as a whole.”

We have submitted to the Minister that:

“fragmenting the Cluster reduces its significance and its valued qualities” and that “The fragmentation of the Cluster could devastate its position in the wine and wine tourism market and the viability of all other businesses which depend on the winegrowing industry.”

We have noted to the Minister that:

“there has been no such fragmentation of the Critical Industry Cluster in and around the adjacent winegrowing region of Pokolbin.”

We have further submitted to the Minister that:

“Despite the presence of AGL Energy conducting Coal Seam Methane Gas activities in and around the Broke and Bulga areas, there is no reason why the Broke Fordwich winegrowing region should be treated differently from other Critical Industry Clusters.” Why is Broke Fordwich being punished?

We have urged the Minister to:

“ensure that the final Critical Industry Cluster is not restricted to the 9 non-contiguous Clusters recommended in the mapping, but the mapped CICs are joined together to ensure that the whole of the Broke Fordwich region is one Critical Industry Cluster.”

We have exhorted our local Member George Souris to:

Support our submissions to the Minister to ensure the protection of the Broke Fordwich Winegrowing District as a whole.

We simply cannot accept this piece-meal swiss-cheese approach to the winegrowing area. Can you imagine anything worse than having to drive through gas fields to go from one cellar door to another; from one restaurant to your B & B or your luxury accomodation. No. Such an approach is untenable. This is the Clusters last stand.



www.huntervalleyprotectionalliance.com

4th February, 2014. Contact: Graeme Gibson 0418 239359.