

# **GAS WATCH 246.**

## **AGL to set up its methane Central Processing facility near Stratford.**

### **Migrating methane from fracking caused problems here TEN YEARS ago.**

**Why, you might well ask this Government, have approvals been given for Coal Seam Methane activities in this geologically sensitive area in view of the earlier, dangerous, migration of methane gas?**

In preparing its Gloucester Gas Project plans AGL appears, either by accident or design, to have completely ignored, amongst other things, the **problems and dangers** which arose TEN YEARS AGO when exploration drilling and fracking took place near Stratford. Stratford is pretty much smack in the middle of AGL's proposed Gloucester coal seam methane gas drilling area.

**C M Atkinson, in his January, 2005 report "Coal Bed Methane Hazards in NSW" wrote:**

***"STRATFORD. In September 2004, within a fortnight of the beginning of gas testing, a coal bed methane well (at Stratford) north of Newcastle, NSW, was shut down as several boreholes up to 300m away began to blow off methane gas. This was the first reported case of a serious migration of methane gas from coal bed methane operations in New South Wales.***

*Drill hole LMG-03 was one of two test production drill holes completed.*

*A 6-12 months testing period began in late August 2004.*

***However, Molopo announced on 7th September that all tests had been halted after methane had erupted from a number of old boreholes in the area. At the time a strong gas flow of 280,000 cubic feet/day had been recorded even though the water level was still about 300 metres above the coal seams.***

*In this case there were apparently no serious injuries and the methane gas migrated into nearby boreholes rather than houses, essential water supplies or livestock areas. This example shows that even with only a partial withdrawal of the hydrostatic pressure, methane will migrate quickly and in unpredictable directions."*

**AGL – LEAVE THE ENVIRONMENT ALONE! Particularly where it is proven that this area is very environmentally sensitive.**

**NSW GOVERNMENT – stop this invasion of our environment, this damage to our agricultural and tourism industries, before it is all lost.**



[www.huntervalleyprotectionalliance.com](http://www.huntervalleyprotectionalliance.com)

18<sup>th</sup> September, 2014. Contact: Graeme Gibson 0418 239359 OR Stewart Ewen 0408 234773

A copy of the full CM Atkinson report is attached.