

GAS WATCH 249.

AGL, IN THE LIGHT OF THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF SCIENTIST, HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO SUSPEND GAS EXPLORATION IN GLOUCESTER AND THE HUNTER, IF IT HAS ANY THOUGHT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE HEALTH OF THE RESIDENTS,

The Chief Scientist says the 16 recommendations are required to be adopted so that the “CSG industry can in general be managed”.

AGL:

- ***“acknowledges that the coal seam gas industry has technical challenges and risks”***
- ***“supports these 16 recommendations” made by the Chief Scientist in this week’s final report.***

If AGL is at all serious about “supporting” the 16 recommendations of the Chief Scientist, then AGL MUST immediately cease work in Gloucester and the Hunter generally until every one of those recommendations is adopted, and until legislation resultant upon those recommendations has been enacted.

Otherwise AGL will be operating in what is clearly an unsafe environment, which environment the Chief Scientist recommends can be made manageable.

The Chief Scientist says says the CSG “can in general be managed”(She doesn’t go as far as saying it can be made safe) but only if her recommendations are followed and

- *“this needs to take place within a clear, revised, legislative framework which is supported by an effective and transparent reporting and compliance regime and by drawing on appropriate expert advice.”*
 - *“current risk management needs improvement to reach best practice.”*
- *“there is still considerable uncertainty associated with the development of any new resource province”.*
- *“To enable better planning decisions and better management of cumulative impacts, it will be necessary that industry collects and provides to Government significantly more data than at present.”*

In the light of the Chief Scientist’s report, the Government MUST place a moratorium on any further exploration, including currently approved exploration, until that legislative framework is in place, and followed slavishly, by the CSG industry. There is simply too much danger in continuing with CSG exploration when it is not manageable.

Based on the report of the Chief Scientist, the current CSG industry is not manageable, and until it is AGL must stop exploration, and you would think AGL would do that voluntarily in view of its “support” of the recommendations of the Chief Scientist.



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* <http://www.agl.com.au/about-agl/media-centre/article-list/2014/october/agl-welcomes-nsw-chief-scientists-final-report-into-coal-seam-gas>