

# GAS WATCH 253.

**AGL ENERGY – a living advertisement that Coal Seam Methane Gas exploration and production is currently neither safe nor manageable.**

**The Sydney Morning Herald reports today of significant variations in AGL's reporting of Methane Gas escapes from its Camden wells.**

AGL Energy:

- **Seems unable to conduct its CSG methane operations safely, openly or transparently.** Today's SMH reports that that AGL advised the Government that up to 100,000 cubic feet of methane inadvertently escaped into the atmosphere last September. Later AGL said it was only 10,000 cubic feet. It is unclear from AGL's delayed reporting which figure is correct, if either. There should be NO emissions at all.
- Apparently claimed through a spokesman that methane gas is not toxic, and that maybe correct, however AGL **well knows that Methane Gas is 20 times more damaging as a global warming blanket than Carbon Dioxide, that it is highly flammable, highly explosive and can cause death by asphyxiation.**
- **Continues, by virtue of its behaviour, as a one man band supporting the contention of scientists, the Chief Scientist, hydrogeologists, geologists and the general community, that CSG exploration and mining is neither safe nor manageable.** The Chief Scientist's 16 recommendations which she thinks could make the CSG industry "manageable" have not yet been implemented.
- Has committed many breaches, short cuts, and attracted penalties and rehabilitation notices in its inexorable, but clearly unmanageable, quest for Coal Seam Gas, as we have partly set out in earlier Gas Watch's, including having its Gloucester experiment halted by the Government because of the carcinogenic chemicals findings, and also the dumping of contaminated coal seam water into the sewers of Newcastle by its contractor. Also see Gas Watch 252 – <http://huntervalleyprotectionalliance.com/pdf/gaswatch252.pdf>
- Finally yesterday admitted that Bass Strait gas fields are the largest potential provider of gas into the Australian east coast market with enough gas to head off alleged supply shortages – *"the largest volume of uncontracted gas sits with Esso-BHP in Bass Strait"* said AGL's outgoing CEO Michael Fraser. *"We need to contract to get more gas from Bass Strait."* This Alliance told AGL quite clearly, and in writing, back in 2012 that **BHP Billiton Chief, Mike Yeager said on 14th May, 2012:** *"We want to make sure that the market knows that we have a lot of gas in eastern Australia that's available. It's more important to let the citizens of Victoria and New South Wales and Queensland know that there's plenty of gas to supply those provinces indefinitely. We have gas for sale and we will work with anybody at any time."* Back in 2012 we asked of AGL *"thought of giving Mr. Yeager a call."* Perhaps AGL finally got around to it. Only took them about 3 years and many CSG Licence breaches.
- Has established that it is unable to manage CSG operations safely, openly and transparently.

**AGL should be stopped immediately from continuing any further exploration. The CSG industry should be stopped until all the recommendations of the Chief Scientist are made law and we see whether or not they work.**



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