

GAS WATCH 255.

AGL intends to send a new broom through its controversial Coal Seam Methane Gas division.

Yesterday AGL Energy announced that it “would undertake a comprehensive review of the company’s Upstream Gas business.”

It has been obvious to the community for many years that such a review has been required.

AGL has stumbled from experiment to experiment with their methane gas exploration; with their extraction; with their community relations; with buying and selling property hoping rather than knowing what they will do with those properties.

AGL doesn’t appear to have had any cohesive or co-ordinated plan regarding its activities. AGL has continually breached licence conditions and appears to have, a crash through or crash mentality, showing that it has no real idea what it is doing and without any plans for the disposal of hundreds of millions of litres of contaminated fracking water, salt and other contaminants.

Whilst AGL has claimed to be communicating with the community, in reality it has not entered into any consultation rather taking the course that it will tell the community what it is going to do and not taking any notice of the community’s desire to protect the environment, the fresh water, the health of the people within the community, agricultural land, the businesses run on rural lands, the future of the country.

AGL has shown no professionalism and does not appear to know what it is doing in relation to its coal seam methane quest.

We welcome the fact that the CEO has announced this review. We hope that it is a real review and not simply a PR (spin) exercise conjured up by AGL’s new PR company, only appointed in the last couple of weeks. Coincidence?

We hope that AGL will now listen to the community. The suddenly outgoing General Manager of Upstream Gas for AGL told the Senate Enquiry some time ago that “there was plenty of land out there” and that if a landholder said that they didn’t want AGL on their property that AGL would “move on.” We have always had difficulty in communicating with the outgoing General Manager and hope this will now change.

AGL has a lot of ground to make up if it is to be trusted by the general community and also by the scientific community. It has a lot of science to study. It has to comply with all the recommendations of the Chief Scientist. It has to immediately cease its activity in areas of prime agricultural land, in the vineyards, in the Gloucester Valley and in the horse breeding areas of the Upper Hunter.

AGL must realise in its review that it is counter-productive for the company to pursue those areas; that it should leave the Critical Industry Clusters alone & acknowledge that co-existence with Wine Tourism regions is not possible; stay well away from water ways, artesian basins, aquifers, and all quality agricultural land.

We would hope that the incoming team at AGL will meet with community organisations and acknowledge the above .



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