

GAS WATCH 261.

AGL has no acceptable plan for the safe disposal of contaminated fracking water – and never has.

AGL has, for the last couple of years, been pumping contaminated fracking water onto pasture.

That trial has now ended with some 600,000 litres (according to **AGL**) left over to be disposed of, somehow, from a storage tank and it appears some 3,500,000 litres from the fraced wells to be put into a storage dam until they figure out what to do with it.

Was it a success. Of course not. It never could be.

You can dilute the salty water as much as you like, but the same amount of salt still goes into the soil.

Here's how the commentary went:

EPA:

"The EPA reviewed the monitoring data from the irrigation trial and based on this review, would not support a continuation of the trial.

The EPA was concerned about the levels of salt and some heavy metals – the presence of these made the long-term viability of the program unsustainable."

AGL:

"AGL has successfully completed its two-year irrigation program in Gloucester, during which more than 50,000,000 litres of produced water from its gas exploration activities were beneficially re-used.

We've been really happy with the results from the Tiedmans Irrigation Program and as we only have a very small volume of produced water left, we made the decision not to apply for an extension of the program".

SERIOUSLY ?????

Hunter Valley Protection Alliance (Gaswatch 228, 24th November, 2013 – see link below):

"Salty water used for irrigation results in soil salinisation rendering it unfit for raising most crops and plants. Consequences include: Destruction of soil structure; detrimental effects on plant growth and yield, the plants use the water and the salt is left behind; damage to infrastructure (roads, bricks, corrosion of pipes and cables); reduction of water quality for users; sedimentation problems; soil erosion ultimately, when crops are too strongly affected by the amounts of salts. And it might be added that coal seam water not only includes salt but also Arsenic, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Fluoride, Formaldehyde, Lead, Mercury, Nickel, Radon and more" And according to AGL carcinogenic BTEX chemicals from the Gloucester project. Why didn't anybody listen then.

BUT WAIT....AGL still has no idea of what to do with the left over contaminated fracking water so has now applied to *"allow the movement of the flowback water from the four pilot wells to the Tiedmans East Dam – via an existing AGL pipeline until a third-party contractor is engaged, or the stage one Gloucester Gas Project commences.."* See attached photo of how **AGL** previously moved contaminated water!!! A leaky, duct taped, failed effort to contain the water. **AGL** has no idea.

So many questions: what about rain events which result in the dam overflowing; or leaks in the liner or dam wall; where is the salt going to go in the event of **AGL** treating the fracking water in a *"de-salination process"*; where are the heavy metals and other chemicals going to go;

AGL has no idea and no plan. The CSG industry has no idea how to dispose of the contaminated water or its contaminants, and no plan.

Same old **AGL**. The new broom is turning out to be the same as the old one.



www.huntervalleyprotectionalliance.com

<http://huntervalleyprotectionalliance.com/pdf/gaswatch228.pdf>

