

GAS WATCH 263.

Answers to community questions of AGL, delayed.

The regular meeting of the Hunter Community Consultative Committee has been postponed until after October, mainly because AGL hasn't yet decided what to do with its Coal Seam Methane Gas department. Apparently the CSG wing of AGL hasn't yet presented the results of its requested review to the AGL Board.

This review is no doubt about what AGL proposes to do regarding CSG exploration in the future and, if they haven't finished their review, fair enough.

BUT there are plenty of questions about **outstanding past** matters which AGL or the Departmental representatives should answer now, at a restored Community Consultative meeting, rather than waiting until towards the end of the year:

- What is AGL going to do with the millions of litres of contaminated fracking water from its Gloucester CSG experiment. This water is sitting in a dam and contains carcinogens, salt, heavy minerals and goodness knows what else which may be harmful to humans or to the environment;
- Is AGL in breach of its licence conditions, or the law, in storing this fracking water in a dam;
- What steps are being taken by the appropriate Government Departments to enforce the law or the licence conditions. Does the government propose to take enforcement or punitive action against AGL if it is in breach;
- What steps is AGL taking to try and "appropriately" dispose of this water;
- Is there really any way of safely disposing of this fracking water. As time goes on and disposal experiments fail, it appears there may well be no safe way of disposing of his fracking water;

These are questions which can, and should be answered, NOW.

AGL cannot keep communities, such as the internationally registered Broke Fordwich winegrowing community, hanging by its fingernails for "*somewhere between 5 and 100 years*" (former CSG boss Moraza) while it decides whether to replace the vineyards with a gas field. Every delay affects investment in the sustainable winegrowing industry.

This company AGL, seems to be all over the place at the moment, which may well have resulted in the big swings in share price over the past few weeks.

AGL:

- announces reviews;
- "sells" its interest in the Galilee Basin CSG exploration permit;
- says it will sell \$1Bn of assets by the end of the 2016-2017 financial year, but what;
- is selling its stake in the Macarthur wind farm, but retaining its filthy Low Yang coal burning power station which has made AGL one of Australia's biggest polluters;
- is "delighted to be partnering with the government" by offering discount rates to seniors;
- sets up a wing of more than 200 employees to push solar, battery storage, electric vehicles and the like, but says it doesn't see a market for battery storage until the 2020s;
- has employed a new PR company;
- has paid penalties of over \$700,000 for misleading its energy customers;
- was fined \$40,000 for disconnecting hardship customers;

And all this just in the last month. And AGL wonders why it has serious reputational issues arising from its continuing Coal Seam Methane Gas exploration.

Same old AGL.



www.huntervalleyprotectionalliance.com

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

6th June, 2015. Contact: Graeme Gibson 0418 239359 OR Stewart Ewen 0408 234773