

# **GAS WATCH 44.**

## **ON 20<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, SYDNEY GAS WENT THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – BUT THEY DIDN'T CONSULT, AND NEVER HAVE, IT JUST LECTURED, BULLIED AND IGNORED.**

**Let's have a look at what came out of the meeting between the community and Sydney Gas on 20<sup>th</sup> August.**

1. Sydney Gas opened the meeting by hiding behind a hired “moderator” who did nothing to moderate the meeting, but rather completely misread the audience and lost any credibility in the first 3 minutes.
2. Sydney Gas attempted, through this “moderator”, to bully the community by stating at the beginning of the meeting that all those who asked questions had to identify themselves, probably fair enough, but also had to provide their address. Clearly a ruse to control the number of questions. Due to vocal objection from the audience, the “moderator” had no choice but to back down, which he did only after continuing to attempt to bully the meeting into this breach of our privacy rights, arguing with the audience vociferously, but without any success. From then on the “moderator” was redundant and unable to regain any respect.
3. Sydney Gas said that it proposed to drill its pilot wells on the land it bought on the outskirts of the Broke village, within 300 metres of the Broke Primary School, basically:
  - Whether we like it or not;
  - Whether it will affect the waterways or not;
  - Whether it will affect the school pupils or the school's gardens and vineyard or not;
  - Whether it will affect the village or its people, or not;
  - Whether it will affect the immediate neighbours, or not;
  - Whether it affects our underground water supply and bores, or not;
  - Whether it floods or not;
  - Whether it is bushfire prone or not;
  - Whether the singleton council opposes it or not;
  - Whether it devalues our properties or not;
  - Whether it adversely affects the tourism industry, or any other industry, or not.
  - Whether it puts tourist operators or cellar door operators out of business, or not.
4. Sydney Gas simply did not listen to the concerns of the community that the drilling site was close to the school, close to neighbours, through the water tables, and on a flood plain. Sydney Gas simply doesn't care, the corporate greed overtaking community

rights and environmental concerns. This is not consultation. Consultation means a two way flow of information, listening and taking notice.

5. Sydney Gas confirmed it would **not** compensate any landholder for loss of value of their land.
6. Sydney Gas confirmed it would **not** compensate any business owner for loss of, or damage to, their business.
7. Sydney Gas said that if landholders weren't prepared to give them access, then they would buy land and just go ahead anyway. Apparently they are in the process of purchasing land on the Putty Road near Milbrodale to drill their wells, and claim they will buy other property.
8. Sydney Gas blatantly lied when it claimed to have contacted the immediate neighbours of the parcel of land they have bought to drill on, adjacent to the village. At least two of the neighbouring owners have not been contacted.
9. Sydney Gas claimed that they do not have to provide Mineral Resources with a fresh Review of Environmental Factors for their pilot wells on the Broke village land. The Department says they do. Hopefully the Department will be strong and enforce their requirements and will tell Sydney Gas that it is wrong, that it must comply, rather than letting Sydney Gas get away with it.
10. Sydney Gas refused to divulge how far away from its well-heads that the massive compressor station would be constructed. This is the compressor station at Camden:



11. It takes up acres. Noisy. Attracts plenty of traffic. Brightly lit. Will Sydney Gas build it on the land they are buying around the area? Will they build it right next to the vineyard village of Broke? Will they build it at Mt. Thorley? Who knows? Sydney Gas won't divulge that. Another act of secrecy?
12. Sydney Gas told us nothing that we didn't already know, other than confirming that they propose to ignore the concerns of the community and ignore all risks from their drilling;

**SYDNEY GAS SIMPLY DOESN'T CARE. Why should it? It has the backing of the Government so it looks like Sydney Gas thinks it can do whatever it likes.**

**THE MEETING WAS JUST ANOTHER SHAM.**

**THE CREDIBILITY OF SYDNEY GAS CONTINUES TO FREE-FALL.**

**DON'T LET OUR VILLAGE COME UNDER ASSAULT.**

**DON'T RISK OUR WATER! DON'T RISK OUR RURAL LIFESTYLE.**

**KEEP SYDNEY GAS OUT OF BROKE.**

**WRITE TO THE MINISTER. WRITE TO YOUR LOCAL MEMBER.  
WRITE TO YOUR COUNCILLORS.**

**Sydney Gas simply doesn't care.**

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Here's that map again showing the Sydney Gas invasion of the village of Broke.

