

GAS WATCH 49.

DANGER OF EXPLOSIONS IN HOUSES.

Sydney Gas warns that if there is methane gas seepage from the wells they are to drill right next to the village of Broke, then *“vegetation directly above the leak would slowly and I mean over two years, start to deteriorate. This is how leaks are discovered.”* (General Manager, Sydney Gas).

But there is more.

Methane gas leaking from a closed landfill has entered neighbouring houses at Cranbourne, south-east of Melbourne.

Dangerous concentrations of methane were detected in confined areas, including the wall cavity of a house, under the kitchen sink of another and in the stormwater pits around the estate.

“Methane can ignite when it reaches a level of between 5 and 15%. The concentration in the ground at Cranbourne was 20%”.

The Country Fire Authority said *“the only 100% sure way to eliminate this risk from residents is for them to relocate from their homes (EVACUATE). We are not saying panic and run for the hills, but we cannot give you a gilt-edged guarantee.”*

It is clear from this that there is a real risk in Broke if methane gas leaks through the ground, or up through bores and wells in the village, despite anything Sydney Gas says.

Of course, Sydney Gas will say that this example is a landfill not a gas well. But our situation is worse. Sydney Gas will be releasing gas from the coal seams, an area of potentially much more gas than a landfill.

Methane gas is known to migrate from fractured coal seams through the ground to the surface through the weakest point, which may be a crack in the overburden, or through your bore or well. Sydney Gas would hope that the weakest point would be their well head, but they don't know.

It is just plain WRONG that Sydney Gas should be allowed to release methane gas from the coal seams right next to the village.

They must be stopped. Write to your local member. Write to the Minister Ian McDonald, Parliament House, Sydney, 2000, and tell him that it is WRONG, that the danger is too great, and that he should prohibit Sydney Gas from releasing methane gas from the coal seams immediately beside, and underneath, the village of Broke. Write to the press.

There are plenty of coal seams in more remote areas. Sydney Gas should be required to explore those.

DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH SYDNEY GAS.

**DON'T SIGN ANYTHING SYDNEY GAS PUTS IN FRONT OF YOU. SEEK
INDEPENDENT LEGAL ADVICE.**

WRITE TO YOUR LOCAL MEMBER AND TO THE GOVERNMENT.

DON'T LEAVE IT UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE!

**FREE LEGAL ADVICE IS AVAILABLE BY SOLICITORS RETAINED BY HB
GAG.**

Sydney Gas simply doesn't care.

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