

# **GAS WATCH 57.**

## **Sydney Gas has issued a newsletter for November, 2008.**

So, let's have a look at it and see what it tells us, if anything; and see if it is community consultation, or just more spin.

### ***Page 1/3. Sydney Gas supports local stock horse/Rural Fire Service.***

Here's Sydney Gas trying to buy its way into the community rather than earn the respect of the community by its actions and by consultation. What's wrong with diverting some of the millions of dollars they are going to spend on exploration into something which might protect the community, for example examining how to sequester the millions of tons of carbon dioxide which will be belched into the atmosphere from burning this methane gas.

So far as sponsoring a local horse, or giving a small donation to the Rural Fire Service to help buy a radio, are concerned, well there won't be much calling for either a horse or a Rural Fire Service if Sydney Gas ruins our ground water with its intention to drill through the water tables.

### ***Page 1. Independent water advice.***

Andy Lukas is on record, previously, as saying that there will be no further activity with the wells on the edge of the Broke village until an independent water study is completed. He has fallen short of actually confirming that in this newsletter, only saying that "our exploration is dependent on protecting water aquifers". It is hoped that the Consultative Committee and the Government will hold Sydney Gas to that earlier undertaking, although we know from past experience that Sydney Gas is not a company which regularly honours undertakings.

### ***Page 2. Water Bores.***

We don't recall seeing any information from the Department that approval had been sought for these bores. The community seems to be forever left in the dark. No chance, again, for public scrutiny, just an approval giving Sydney Gas the go-ahead. Also, we would like to see the analysis conducted by the Department rather than by Sydney Gas.

### ***Page 2. News briefs.***

There is nothing in here other than to say they are drilling. No comment on the results of core hole analysis. In fact Sydney Gas told the last meeting of the Consultative Committee that they were still awaiting analysis results. As you know, two days later, Sydney Gas announced that there was \$10bn worth of gas under the Hunter. Which is true? No-one really knows what to believe.

In relation to the proposed test wells at the edge of the Broke village, about 300 metres from the primary school, Sydney Gas claim to be cleaning up the site. What! After four years they are finally going to do something to camouflage their drilling; something to rehabilitate the site.

Better late than never we suppose. It is supposed that there will be similar delays in future rehabilitation.

**Page 3. Seismic surveys.**

We've all seen the significant damage caused to road surfaces by recent Seismic surveys. We have all seen recent Sydney Gas seismic surveys being conducted on Sundays when that was prohibited by the Government approval. We have been told previously what Seismic surveys are supposed to consist of, but when they happen it is not always what is advertised.

**Page 4. Degassing (or is that spinning) gas myths.**

Sydney Gas is still trying to tell us that they have changed the name of the gas it is exploring for from "methane" to "natural" because that is more correct. This is just a lot of nonsense in an attempt to make Sydney Gas look more responsible environmentally. The bigger movers in the coal seam methane gas scene haven't resorted to this sort of denial. We don't accept the explanation. Furthermore, Mineral Resources doesn't agree either. A short definition given by the Department went something along the lines: "natural gas is associated with short chain hydrocarbons that are trapped in porous geological strata, usually together with oil deposits, which differentiates it from "coal seam methane" which is dissolved in water, which impregnates the coal seams."

At the risk of being boring, both "natural gas" and oil are under pressure and their exploitation does not produce much toxic waste water, whereas coal seam methane extraction does. Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is, indeed, the primary hydrocarbon in "natural" gas" however "natural" gas also includes significant quantities of ethane, propane, butane, and pentane as well as carbon dioxide, nitrogen, helium and hydrogen sulfide.

These are the differences, so it is pretty obvious why they have changed it from "methane" to "natural" wherever it appears on their website. To be open and honest, they should just correct it.

And finally Sydney Gas wants to split hairs. *Is coal seam natural (methane) gas mined?* Sydney Gas claims that it is not mined. So what. There are many meanings of mining, including "digging or burrowing into the earth". Just another bit of a spin to take our minds from the real dangers. Doesn't take us anywhere.

**THE REAL DANGERS ARE TO OUR GROUND WATER, TO OUR ENVIRONMENT, TO OUR PHYSICAL SAFETY, TO OUR PROPERTY VALUES AND TO OUR LIFESTYLE.**

**And they still won't agree to an Environmental Assessment of their immediate proposals.**

**SYDNEY GAS IS ACTIVELY SEEKING FURTHER SITES TO INVADE OUR COMMUNITY AND THREATEN OUR WATER.**

**SAY "NO" WHEN THEY KNOCK ON YOUR DOOR.**

**Free legal advice is available in relation to any proposals put to you by Sydney Gas.**

Contact HB GAG Hunter Bulga Gas Action Group Inc. PO Box 120, BROKE 2330  
[www.huntergasactiongroup.com.au](http://www.huntergasactiongroup.com.au) Tel: 0400456374