

GAS WATCH 92

AGL ENERGY Admits To Deliberately Polluting the Hunter – Government Inaction

AGL Energy has admitted to deliberately and intentionally pumping over 100,000 litres of saline water onto prime agricultural land. It knew full well the polluted water could sterilize the land and potentially run into the Hunter River. It admitted it only after being caught.

Photographs taken of the pollution incident clearly showing the scummy water, the pumping, the live & dead pasture and leaky pipes bound only with duct tape can be viewed at http://huntermvalleyprotectionalliance.com/Windermere_spill1.html

Eyewitnesses of the pollution incident claim they observed 300,000 to 500,000 litres of polluted water being dumped on open & fertile pasture. It appears that the eyewitnesses are right.

The polluted water **killed** all vegetation it touched and turned the area black.

This was an act of environmental vandalism, not an accidental spill.

An independent laboratory has analysed the water as **“Class 6 Extremely High Salinity – not suitable for irrigation”** and identified significant quantities of a variety of toxic chemicals: 2-Butoxyethanol, Diethylene-glycol-monoethyl-ether, Diethylene-glycol-butyl-ether, Triethylene-glycol-monoethyl-ether and Diethyl-phthalate – chemicals listed by the industry as fracking fluids.

AGL Energy promised the community in writing that it complied with its exploration licence conditions. It stated all contaminated water was transported to a certified water treatment plant for treatment. **AGL Energy lied**. **AGL** assumed it wouldn't be caught. Well, **AGL** has been caught. **AGL** hasn't even bothered to deny the water was heavily saline and contaminated, merely claiming: “you can't prove it”. Well, it is proven. **AGL** expects us to accept their reckless behaviour and consequent risk to our land, our fresh water and our livelihoods. The community **DOES NOT ACCEPT AGL's** behaviour and consequent risks to our environment.

What chance is there of **AGL Energy** complying with licence conditions once in production? **AGL** can't be trusted to. **AGL** couldn't comply with one simple condition – proper treatment & disposal of its contaminated water. **AGL** has shown it can't be trusted with our environment.

The NSW Government should have conducted a full investigation. It should have interviewed eyewitnesses and analyzed the soil and water. But the Government did not. To make matters worse, a Government representative told the community that public viewing of the final report would require **AGL's** consent. Are they pandering to **AGL**? It smacks of collusion!

The NSW Government **MUST** investigate properly. The NSW Government **MUST** protect our environment. The Government must act against **AGL** and its directors to safeguard our future.

This GASWATCH was going to finish up by saying: “Let's keep **AGL** honest”, but it appears that is not going to be possible.



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