

# GAS WATCH 97

## Minister Whan dissolves successful Community Consultative Committee – perpetuates sacrifice of the Hunter Valley to the fossil fuel industry.

Minister Whan has, by a stroke of the pen yesterday, without any community consultation, dissolved the Broke Bulga Methane Gas Exploration Community Consultative Committee.

This was a committee seen as essential to community consultation by former Minister Macdonald to ensure proper communication and consultation between Coal Seam Gas explorers AGL Energy and the affected community, but clearly now seen by Minister Whan as useless.

This Committee has been one of the success stories of Community Consultative Committees, keeping AGL Energy as honest as is possible, and instigating initiatives in relation to water monitoring and mapping.

Why would the Minister pull the plug on this Committee and leave the other 7 committees intact? What was AGL Energy's involvement in the dissolution of this Committee?

The community is outraged seeing:

- the only line of proper communication between the community and the methane gas explorer being cut;
- the ability of the community to ensure AGL is accountable, taken away;
- the community's voice being ignored;
- the door being opened for AGL to operate in secrecy and without public scrutiny.
- another bad decision by a Government in free fall.

The Government perpetuates its sacrifice of the Upper Hunter to the fossil fuel industry by making it more difficult for the community to have any say or any scrutiny.

SHAME !



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